

# AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

JUNE 1941

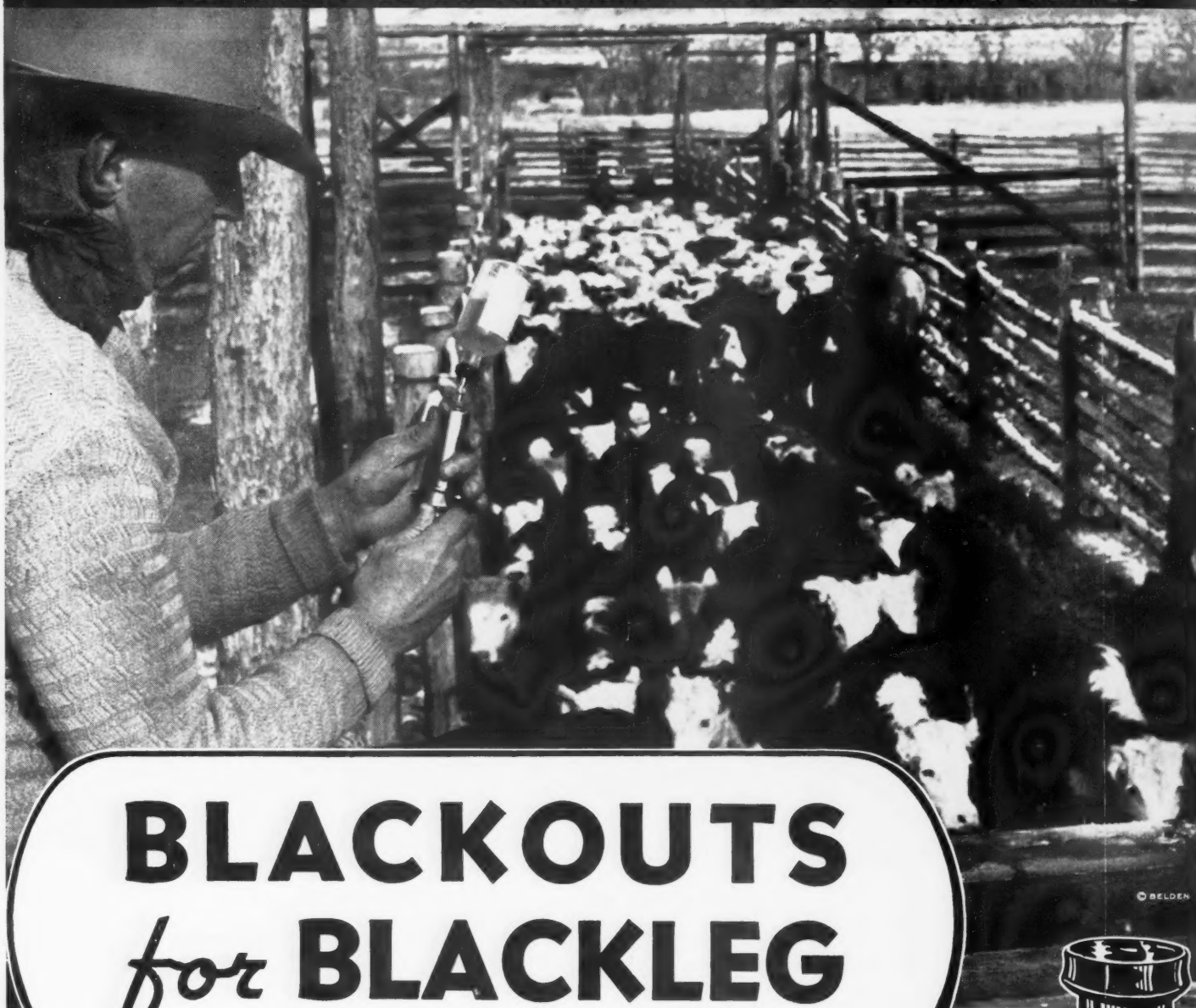


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THE NATIONAL LIVESTOCK MONTHLY

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# LETTERS

## EARLY SPRING RANGE

In most parts of the western range country early spring range commands a premium. There are several reasons for this. In the first place, much of what was once spring-fall range has been broken up for crop production. This naturally placed a heavier burden on what remained of the spring range which, through overgrazing and too early spring use year after year in many places has been so depleted that its carrying capacity is approaching the vanishing point. Furthermore, stockmen who are feeding high priced hay naturally want to get on the range as soon as possible to reduce operating expenses and to get the mothers of young lambs and calves on green feed to assure an abundant supply of milk so necessary to the well-being of young stock.

In a region where spring range is scarce, it will usually be found profitable to supplement it by seeding some of the lower grade farm land to pasture grasses or by including a larger proportion of grass-legume mixture in the rotation (to be used for pasture and then plowed under as green manure), but the earliest range is to be found on native grass ranges.

Assuming that one animal unit (one mature cow or five sheep) will consume a third of a ton of \$6 hay per month, it is apparent that, if range were available a month earlier than usual, it would be worth at least \$2 per animal unit. By selecting a suitable piece of native range sufficient to carry the stock for one month and giving it complete protection for a year, it will be ready to graze nearly a month sooner than the opening date usually considered safe when a range is grazed to capacity year after year. Plants allowed to mature without being grazed will start growth in the spring as much as two weeks earlier than plants that are heavily grazed. (This may be checked by observing the early and rapid growth of grasses in fence corners and other protected spots). Then, too, if the same area is grazed in the spring that was grazed the previous fall, grazing should be deferred for two or three weeks after growth starts. On a range that has been protected all during the previous growing season, grazing may be allowed as soon as the soil is dry enough to prevent damage from trampling; in some locations as soon as the snow is off. The old growth will furnish feed until the new grass gets started and will counteract the "washy" effect of the very young grass.

Since \$1 or \$2 per head savings may be anticipated, the operator can well afford to supply sufficient acreage for spring grazing so that no damage will be done by overgrazing or excessive

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 24)



## The Railroads scan the Heavens too!

**N**O farmer studies the crop forecasts more closely than do the railroads. An inch of rain at just the right time may mean five more bushels of wheat per acre to the farmer—to the railroads it means that thousands of additional cars must be provided for that section.

Only last year, production of winter wheat in some sections jumped 68% ahead of early estimates when late rains drenched the principal producing states.

As threshing time draws near, the railroads plan their strategy as carefully as a general staff plots a military campaign. Armies of cars are marched into position. Everything must be ready when the grain starts to flow out of the combines because the grain-producing states can store only a fraction of their crop, while modern methods in harvesting and marketing have compressed shipments into shorter and sharper peak movements.

This year the problem threatens to be exceptionally difficult. A bumper crop now, with a heavy carry-over still in the elevators,

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will create a strong temptation to use cars for storage, but the railroads count on prompt loading and unloading in moving the crop.

Only the railroads with their own vast network of steel highways and their reserves of equipment could possibly handle a movement of such magnitude. In the great grain belt of the Midwest there are some 30,000 miles of feeders, branch lines which find their chief use when the crops move. Without these lines to carry their produce quickly and economically to market, millions of acres of fertile, profitable farm land might as well be given back to the Indians.

### ONE YEAR'S GRAIN RAIL SHIPMENTS

**WHEAT** — 742,818,334 bushels or 489,446 cars.

**CORN** — 369,363,893 bushels or 243,719 cars.

**OATS** — 170,816,062 bushels or 83,658 cars.

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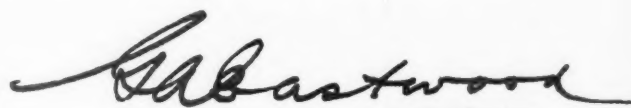
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# AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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Volume XXIII

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Number 1

## SELENIUM POISONING IN RANGE FORAGE

By AMY LAWRENCE

SINCE THE GREAT HERDS OF cattle were first trailed up the Chisholm, the stockman has been troubled by losses of stock from "obscure diseases of the cattle range" called at various times "grub in the head," blind staggers, and alkali disease. Even the investigators from the Department of Agriculture had no explanation for these mysterious losses until in 1934 these maladies were traced to selenium, a toxic mineral that lurks in certain soils of the arid and semi-arid West.

Some of the cattlemen attributed these unexplained diseases to a gas that came from arsenic in the soil after a rain. Others were convinced that it was the result of malicious poisoning of water-holes where the cattle watered; and the brackish waters of alkali lakes were regarded as highly dangerous, hence the name "alkali disease." In 1933, when preliminary tests were made by the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils that showed a possibility that selenium might be involved, the areas in which the poison lay were kept secret because of the potential dangers of the discovery.

Selenium is described as "the only naturally occurring element that is absorbed by certain native vegetation in quantities sufficient to be poisonous to livestock." It is a grey mineral, discovered by a Swedish chemist, that produces permanent injuries or death in the cattle that eat it. It finds its way to the livestock through certain plants that absorb it from the soil and are then consumed as forage. Selenium seems to circulate through the entire plant, making any part of it poisonous.

ALTHOUGH selenium was discovered in 1817 and has since been put to several chemical uses, it was not definitely connected with the mysteriously poisoned cattle until six years ago when the first publication concerning selenium and its dangers to the stockman was published by Dr. O. A. Beath, chief chemist at the Wyoming experiment station, University of Wyoming, at Laramie.

Dr. Beath, with his co-authors,

stressed four points in the publication (Wyoming Experiment Station Bulletin 206). They establish definitely that selenium is the cause of cattle losses attributed to the blind staggers and alkali disease. They pointed out that the distribution of seleniferous plants is in direct correlation with certain shaley geological formations. They found and classified a new group of native plants that are highly poisonous to livestock. They noticed during their experiments that certain grasses normally not capable of absorbing selenium from the soil can absorb it when growing in areas where there had previously been a heavy stand of selenium-bearing plants.

This publication culminated seventeen years of study and research in the lab-

oratory and field—research which for the most part contained no mention of selenium. Occasionally frantic calls would come to Dr. Beath to save stricken livestock, but there was very little he could do; and autopsies on the dead animals revealed nothing but a forage of a peculiar and unpleasant odor in the stomach.

It was this residue that led to a closer study of the vegetation in the areas where stock losses had occurred, but the familiar poisonous plants did not produce the symptoms of blind staggers or alkali disease. In 1917, however, it was established that the two-grooved milk vetch would produce characteristics of these diseases, but its toxicity was not connected with selenium. During a special study of certain native *Astragal* that culminated in 1934, it became evident that certain native vetches located on restricted soils were responsible for many losses of livestock, and after extended experimenting it was discovered that the poisonous quality of these plants came from selenium.

"When we began to see the correlation



Woody Aster. This plant has large daisy-like flower heads, borne upon branches emanating from one root.

between the maladies and selenium, we were slowed down by the popular conception that plant poisoning was independent of the soil," Dr. Beath explained. "But after a series of experiments, the connection became so evident that it could no longer be ignored, and in 1934 we published the bulletin announcing our discoveries."

**E**ARLY in the course of the experiments it became apparent that the selenium-bearing plants were found only in certain soils—in 1932 the Wyoming scientist pointed out the fact that the poisonous properties of the two-grooved milk vetch were influenced by the soil in which it grew. At first it was believed that gumbo and clayey soils were the principal bearers of selenium, but later it was established that shales of certain geological formations produced plants of the highest selenium content.

It has been definitely established that well-irrigated areas seldom bear seleniferous plants, regardless of the selenium content of the soil, and most seleniferous plants are in the arid and semi-arid regions of the West, especially in drought areas. A rough boundary line east of which selenium-bearing vegetation is never found was described by Dr. Beath as following the east Dakota line, the Missouri River, through the Panhandle of Oklahoma and the east side of Texas.

The discovery of selenium and its result on cattle saw the origin of an entirely new group of poisonous plants which is centered chiefly around four genera, *Stanleya*, *Oenopsis*, *Xylorrhiza*, and *Astragalus*. All these genera contain common range forages which are seleniferous.

The *Astragalus* includes the various types of milk vetch, which, it is believed, is the most dangerous of seleniferous plants and surely the best known. In spite of the fact that this plant has probably caused more cattle losses than larkspur, few ranchers are familiar with it and usually confuse it with larkspur. It is poisonous from spring to fall, although the heaviest losses occur during the late summer and fall. The tender shoots that sprout from its base are particularly succulent to cattle on a dry range where there is little green forage. It is generally believed that the alkaloid type of poisonous plants, including larkspur and loco, do not absorb selenium.

These seleniferous plants have been termed "indicator" plants because selenium is necessary to their growth, and therefore their presence will invariably show a seleniferous soil. In this role, these species are used, in conjunction with the knowledge of geological formations, to map out areas containing dangerous forage. These maps, which are still incomplete pending further research, will be indispensable in corrective grazing to avoid poisonous areas.

They will aid too in placing reser-



Two-grooved milk vetch. This legume forms large clumps and is distinguished by the violet flowers and the pods which on the lower side have a marked ridge with a sharp groove on either side.

voirs; for not only does selenium become available to stock through plants but through the water which may flow over these plants or the droppings of stock that has eaten them. Reservoirs placed in draws where seleniferous plants are in evidence are or will become dangerous to stock.

Indicator plants are found in only fifteen western states, although selenium-bearing shales are present in many more. These states include Arizona, Colorado, California, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming.

**T**HERE still remained in 1934 to puzzle the chemists certain mysterious characteristics of seleniferous plants. Their occurrence was spotty; many plants not classified as the indicator plants would be highly toxic in one part of a field and be entirely free from selenium not ten yards away. This led to the discovery of and classification of two different types of seleniferous soils: those in the "raw" or inorganic state and those in the organic or more easily absorbed form.

It became apparent that the indicator plants are the only ones that can absorb the raw selenium; but, once they have drawn it from the soil, they assume the role of "converter" plants and return it to the soil in the organic form through plowing under, leeching, and decay. In this organic form selenium can be absorbed by many range grasses and other plants that normally are not capable of taking it from the soil.

It is obvious that these converter plants are a menace to grazing territories, and their control is one of the most vital problems concerning selenium poisoning. One of the greatest offenders of this kind is the woody Aster, a plant palatable to cattle only under extreme drought conditions. This plant invariably has a high selenium content and has increased approximately 20 per cent in the last few years, proportionately multiplying the organic selenium and making it available to other plants.

This discovery was precipitated by the extremely offensive odor peculiar to seleniferous plants. The following incident demonstrates the importance of this odor in detecting seleniferous plants.

One day a stockman brought a paintbrush into the laboratory, explaining that he had heavy cattle losses and that plant might be responsible. Dr. Beath, believing the paintbrush to be harmless, forgot about it until one day the unmistakable stench of a seleniferous plant became noticeable. It was traced to the paintbrush, and one more poisonous plant was added to the list.

This method of "smelling out" plants in suspicious areas is also useful to the cattleman in helping him to determine if some of his grazing forages contain selenium, for excessive amounts of selenium can be detected this way in many common forages.

The number of plants that may absorb selenium in soil where converter plants have previously grown is not yet known, although the most common have been listed. Certain spring grasses, barley, wheat, saltbush, and winter fat are a few of these. Wheat is believed to absorb more selenium than any other farm crop, although seleniferous barley is highly toxic. Greasewood, which is often confused with the woody Aster, does not assimilate the poison, and experiments show that alfalfa will not take it in sufficient quantities to be poisonous to cattle.

**T**HE diseases produced by seleniferous plants are familiar to most stockmen. The chronic form of alkali disease is found mainly on the plains. It is characterized by loss of flesh and vitality, roughened coat, bone and hoof lesions, loss of the feet and tail, and chewing on fences and bones. Elongated hooves on stock are a sure indication of the presence of selenium in forage. Calves born of alkali mothers often show evidence of the disease at birth, and the mother's milk often contains enough selenium to poison the calf further.

The acute cases, known as the blind staggers, are typical of mountain or upland areas. They can be identified by general lack of vitality and grunting and salivating that indicate great abdominal pain. Later the animal staggers blindly around the corral bumping into objects, and finally dying of paralysis and failure of respiration. Cattle suffering from this type of poisoning are frequently con-

fused with hemorrhagic septicemia cases. A blood test is the only sure way to distinguish between them.

Selenium sometimes produces a sudden "crack up" which will occur several months after the poison has been imbibed. There is no indication that the animal has eaten seleniferous plants until this sudden breakdown, which sometimes occurs in the feed-lots.

In all forms of selenium poisoning, the injury to the internal organs is severe. Disintegration of the liver, gall bladder, heart, kidney, and digestive tract, in most cases, takes place, and it is this permanent injury which makes the poisoning almost impossible to treat. However, although no preventive except corrective grazing has been discovered for either disease, certain measures can be taken that will help the blind staggers cases if administered before the final stage is reached.

The treatment consists of a "solution of four grains of strychnine in fifty cc. of water. For a six-hundred pound animal, the dose is one cc. every two hours for three or four doses. Drench the animal with warm water every three hours."

The alkali disease cannot be cured, although some cases show improvement when changed to a non-toxic fodder; but the permanent damage suffered by vital organs cannot be repaired. The feeding of linseed meal to supplement the natural fodder in areas where selenium is known to exist is also used as a preventive measure.

The story of selenium and its discovery does not end here, however, but must continue for many years effectively to aid the cattleman to curb his stock



A cow suffering from a typical case of blind staggers. Note the apathetic stance typical of these cases.

losses. More detailed maps of seleniferous areas must be made, and this involves years of field work and laboratory study. Stockmen must become acquainted with selenium and its dangers and be able to recognize its presence by the indicator plants and the condition of their cattle.

However, the work that has been done must not be underestimated. Superstition and fear no longer surround seleniferous diseases, because their origin is known and understood. From the accurate knowledge of indicator plants and geological formations, maps can be made which will help the stockmen to instigate a grazing program that will avoid seleniferous areas, and certain indicator plants will help the rancher check on his own range land. And most important of all, the further contamination of the ranges can be fought with the knowledge of converter plants.

#### Where the Indicators Grow

The following is a tabulation of the approximate areas in which indicator plants have been found—not an inclusive list, as the research is incomplete.

**Arizona.**—Cameron, Jerome, Holbrook, Winslow, Vermillion Cliffs, Tonto Basin Valley, Upper Verde Valley, Kaibab Reservation, Bright Angel Trail.

**California.**—Carrizo, Borego, Twenty-nine Palms, Mojave Desert, Death Valley, Panamint and Grapevine Mountains, Truckhaven.

**Colorado.**—Steamboat Springs, Kremmling, De Beque, Cortez, Craig, Meeker, Rifle, Grand Junction, Morrison, Glendevy, San Juan Basin, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins.

**Idaho.**—Glenns Ferry, Warm Springs, Lemhi, Winsper, Bliss, King Hill.

**Montana.**—Wade, Hardin, Fort Benton, Fort Union, Great Falls, Conrad, Carter, Havre, Hinsdale, Circle, Cut Bank, Shelby, Alzada, Billings, Glendive, Lindsay.

**New Mexico.**—Cuba, Springer, El Rito, Laguna, Shiprock, Cimarron, Gallup, Santa Fe, La Ventana, Farmington, Aztec, Albuquerque.

**Nevada.**—Crystal, Reno, Caliente, Mina, Wells, Ludwig, Ely, Wendover.

**North Dakota.**—Valley City, Devils Lake, Beach.

**Oregon.**—Steen Mountain.

**South Dakota.**—Pierre, Midland, Pine Ridge, Cottonwood, Wall, Draper, Kadoka.

**Texas.**—Muleshoe, Terlingua.

**Utah.**—Monticella, Cisco, Blanding, Hanksville, Zion National Park, Capital Reef National Monument, Greenriver, Cedar City, Moab, Notom, Kanab, Provo, Wasatch Mountains, Las Vegas, Saint George.

**Wyoming.**—Ten Sleep, Spotted Horse, Douglas, Ross, Fort Washakie, Rawlins, Laramie, Lysite, Rock River, Greybull, Colony, Casper, Garland, Hanna Basin, Chugwater, Big Horn.

## WHAT WE DO AND DON'T HAVE IN THE AMERICAS

IN "AGRICULTURE IN THE AMERICAS," a Department of Agriculture publication, the question is asked in an article by Joseph L. Apodaca, "Can the Americas live alone?" The author then lists the commodities we need but do not have, tells about our surpluses, and suggests what might be done in the situation.

Rubber is first on the "What We Need But Don't Have" list. There is no production of it in this country and approximately 98 per cent of our imports comes from the Far East. Less than 2 per cent comes from tropical America—the original source of rubber. We use a lot of rubber. "We are literally a nation on wheels" of rubber.

Quinine, like rubber, is a native of tropical America. In recent years United States imports have averaged 1,738,000 pounds per year. Less than 2 per cent comes from countries in the Western Hemisphere.

Cocoa imported into this country comes from tropical America to the extent of 48 per cent of it, the remainder from Africa and Netherlands Indies. Though a native of tropical America, it, like rubber and the raw material for quinine, was transplanted to other areas, notably the west coast of Africa.

Tea, second in importance in Western Hemisphere beverages, is supplied almost entirely from the Far East.

Tapioca is a native of Brazil but was transplanted to Ceylon in 1786 and to India and is successfully produced elsewhere. The Netherlands Indies are the major source of supply. Less than 4 per cent comes from Latin America.

Kapok, demand for which will be stimulated by the defense program because it is excellent for life preservers, water wings, insulation, etc., is supplied by Latin America only to the extent of 5 per cent. The kapok tree was transplanted from the American tropics to the East Indies, the Philippines, Ceylon, Indo-China, and Africa.

Rotenone, the basis of one of the most valuable insecticides, is supplied by tropical America to the extent of 65 per cent. Most of the remainder comes from the Far East.

Fibers for ropes, twine, mats, etc., are largely supplied from the Netherlands Indies, Africa, the Philippines, and Italy. Recent surveys show that they can be produced in much larger quantities in Latin America.

Fats and oils in most categories are products of the Western Hemisphere, although substantial deficits exist. Deficits amount to 1,668,000,000 pounds a year.

Nuts of the cashew variety and to some extent coconuts are deficient in the Western Hemisphere. Latin America supplies less than half of our imports of coconuts and less than 1 per cent of the cashews.

<sup>2</sup>Canadian Journal of Comparative Medicine, January, 1940, p. 23.

Natural silk is an important deficit product in this hemisphere. The Far East furnishes 97 per cent of United States imports of silk. There have been attempts in recent years to produce silk in Ecuador and Brazil, although not commercially.

Surpluses in the Americas are given as grains, fibers, livestock products, fruits, tobacco, sugar, coffee.

Wheat, corn, and linseed are the grains of which hemispheric surpluses are substantial. Exporting countries of the hemisphere had annual surpluses in 1935 to 1938 of 260,000,000 bushels of wheat. Average corn exports of the hemisphere were 252,000,000 bushels annually. Forty-five million bushels of linseed have gone to countries outside the hemisphere.

Fibers in the form of cotton and wool are in huge surplus.

Livestock products to the extent of 1,240,000,000 pounds annually of beef and beef products are exported, largely to Europe, from the Western Hemisphere.

Fruits have annually gone to outside markets in the volume of 6,500,000 boxes of oranges, 16,000,000 boxes of apples, and 3,000,000 boxes of pears.

Tobacco, although considerably active in intrahemisphere trade, is supplied to outside markets to the extent of 469,000,000 pounds per year.

Sugar exports from the exporting countries of the hemisphere amount to about 127,000 short tons annually.

Coffee is exported by more countries of the Western Hemisphere than any other surplus product. About 1,167,000,000 pounds have gone annually to outside countries.

Says the author: "It is significant to note that the value of our imports of the twelve groups of commodities mentioned as deficits averaged about \$428,654,000 in the period 1937-39, only 6 per cent of which originated in Latin America. This indicates the extent to which our purchases might expand from Latin America, were such products purchased there. In turn, during the period 1935-38, the value of the hemisphere's export surpluses of the fifteen commodities considered here . . . is estimated at \$1,380,000,000 a year. These surpluses bring into bold relief the competitive characteristic of agriculture in the Americas. They reveal a problem which, in the interest of hemispheric solidarity, cannot be left unattended.

"On the deficit front the most important line of action includes the production in tropical America of deficit crops which complement present United States production and for which profitable markets exist in the United States. This is a long-range undertaking. . . ."

The cover pictures this and last month were taken by the Nevada state highway department. Both are scenes on the Seventy One Ranch.

## AN ASSOCIATION NEARS ITS FIFTIETH YEAR

By QUEENA STEWART

THE SOUTH DAKOTA STOCK GROWERS' Association came into existence on May 21, 1892, for the purpose of unifying the moral and financial support then being given to several small organizations which, working separately, had been unable to give the protection that the chaotic condition of the times demanded for the livestock industry. At that time the artistic and resourceful rustlers were so numerous and active that range interests were suffering immense losses.



President Tom Jones and Secretary Queena Stewart of the South Dakota Stock Growers' Association.

Thirteen men had met in Rapid City, on December 18, 1891, to create the association. These men were: J. M. Woods, Rapid City; Charles Ham, Grashul; C. K. Howard, Smithville; H. A. Godard, Hot Springs; Mr. Gammon; Fred Holcomb, Rapid City; W. F. Wyatt, Lithia; Ed Stenger, Hermosa; A. D. Marriatte; Harris Franklin, Deadwood; G. E. Lemmon, Spearfish; S. N. Moses, Hot Springs; and Frank M. Stewart, Buffalo. The officers chosen then were: J. M. Woods, president; Charles Ham, vice-president; and F. M. Stewart, secretary.

At the meeting in 1892, which completed the organization, the officers elected were: H. A. Godard, president; Fred Holcomb, vice-president; and F. M. Stewart, secretary-treasurer. The members of the executive committee were: Harris Franklin, Ed Stenger (he held this post until his death in 1936), and G. E. Lemmon. The following year the executive committee was enlarged to seven members by adding: J. M. Woods; J. W. Driskill, Spearfish; A. D. Isherwood, Custer; and Robert Robinson, Belle Fourche.

The association (first and for a long time called the Western South Dakota Stock Growers' Association—in fact, until 1938, long after the brand inspection service was extended to the entire state) immediately began an intensive campaign against the rustling menace. Arrangements were made for brand inspection at all terminal markets.

In its beginning, the association was financed by small annual dues (\$5) and assessments of 3 cents a head on cattle and 2 cents a head on horses—money that went for hiring detectives at Missouri River ferries and on the range. The first one hired—S. N. Moses—got a salary of \$125 a month, "he to furnish all equipment and pay all expenses."

The membership grew rapidly, as the association seemed the best means of curbing the activities of the cattle rustlers, who were taking a big toll. There was an arbitration committee of three appointed each year with the duty "to examine into and render a decision on all questions of dispute between members of this association and referred to them for settlement." The first arbitration committee consisted of G. E. Lemmon, I. M. Humphrey, and J. M. Woods. In 1893 an agreement was made with the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association under which the Wyoming Association was to do the brand inspection at terminal markets for the South Dakota association members. This satisfactory arrangement continued for many years.

The annual meetings of the association were held in April as long as the big cattle companies operated and spring round-ups were necessary. In fact, the association appointed the committee to arrange the round-ups.

The association, probably like most associations in the West, was organized to meet the rustling menace; but other problems were not missing. The year 1911 seems to have been a most difficult one. The state legislature passed the Herd Law, and the homesteaders came in and took up the range. It was the second year of drought, and the herds in the two years were reduced 75 per cent.

During the first twenty years the association had expended \$235,373.02 "in its endeavors to carry out the objects for which it was formulated"—besides rustling, the object of the association was generally to improve the industry in the state. The members were represented before state legislative session, courts—county, district, and supreme—the Interstate Commerce Commission and state commissions, government departments, and congressional committees of investigation.

In the minutes of 1919, we find that the organization was in a "thrifty and encouraging condition." The cost of inspection that year was "a little over \$40,000," and the value of the estrays recovered for member-owners was \$696,896.36. This sum was exceeded in 1921, the total for that year being \$966,629.52. At one time the membership was over 1,000; but, with the passing of the free range, the number of cattle and operators was greatly reduced and income of the association went into a tail spin.

In the early twenties, it became clear that the association could no longer operate under the existing plan, and in 1926 plans were completed whereby a

brand inspection fee was authorized, and, through the excellent co-operation of the associations in Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska, the present brand inspection system was established. It is working out very satisfactorily.

There are three charter members of the association who are still living: G. E. Lemmon, S. N. Moses, and W. F. Wyatt, all of whom we hope to have at our fiftieth anniversary meeting in Rapid City, June 9, 10, and 11, 1941.

In its fifty years of existence, the association has had six presidents: J. M. Woods, H. A. Godard, C. K. Howard, H. A. Dawson, James T. Craig, and Tom Jones. The eight vice-presidents have been: Charles Ham, Fred Holcomb, John D. Stevens, C. K. Howard, James T. Craig, Tom Jones, J. H. Nason, and H. T. Twito; the two secretary-treasurers: F. M. Stewart and Queena Stewart. The present officers are: Tom Jones, Midland, president, (elected in 1930); H. T. Twito, Watauga, vice-president, (elected in 1940); and Queena Stewart, Buffalo Gap, secretary-treasurer (elected in 1927).

## IDAHO CATTLEMEN IN TWENTY-SEVENTH MEET

**T**WO HUNDRED AND FIFTY MEMBERS of the Idaho Cattle and Horse Growers' Association from all sections of the state met for the twenty-seventh annual convention of that body at Idaho Falls on May 14-16 to consider problems of their industry and to hear important speakers on matters pertaining to their business.

E. W. Sanning, mayor of Idaho Falls, welcomed the members to the city, followed by Ford Johnson, Chamber of Commerce president. Max D. Cohn, former president of the Idaho organization, a leading figure in the progress of the association which "protects an industry that returns over \$12,000,000 a year to Idaho," responded to the words of welcome.

Association President A. R. Babcock, in his annual address, commended the Grazing Service and the Forest Service, but said that Idaho needed more men to handle the range end of the setup.

Frank Winzeler, secretary, reported on the legislative processes during the past year, described the brand inspection bill vetoed at the last session of the Idaho legislature, and told about the Bang's disease agreement reached by the beef cattle producers and dairymen, pointing out that, if 75 per cent of the stockmen in a district vote for control, beef producers may use vaccination with blood test on all two-year-old heifers.

In the opening address of the afternoon session, F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, told the convention that stockmen had gained better recognition on

the position they have long maintained against lifting of the embargo on imports from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists. Mollin warned the growers against expanding the cattle industry too rapidly, as the turning point of the cattle production cycle will soon come.

L. C. Montgomery, president of the Utah Cattlemen's Association, stressed the necessity of co-operation between Utah and Idaho in matters of livestock production. He spoke at length on the big game subject, citing a large increase in Utah and a corresponding decrease of cattle and warning Idaho growers to watch out for such a situation.

Freight rates and markets were discussed by J. C. Bruce. He spoke about the ICC decision that retains the 85 per cent stocker and feeder rate. He declared a reduction on dressed meat rates to the Pacific coast would cripple the Idaho livestock industry, which ships a large portion of its animals to that section. The association passed a resolution opposing such dressed meat rate reductions.

Second day convention speakers included O. D. Molohon, chief of range improvements in the Grazing Service, who discussed the work of the Grazing Service; John T. Caine III, representing the Chicago Union Stock Yards; C. E. Favre, assistant regional forester; W. E. Shull, extension entomologist, University of Idaho; M. J. Vaught, chairman of the Idaho AAA committee; Dr. Fred A. Barber, Boise Idaho, of the Bureau of Animal Industry; Merle Drake, former president of the Idaho Wool Growers' Association, and C. W. Hickman, head of the animal husbandry department, University of Idaho. E. J. Fjeldsted, manager of the Ogden Chamber of Commerce and manager of the Ogden Livestock Show, spoke at the banquet. Davenport R. Phelps, of the National Live Stock and Meat Board presented the film, "Meat and Romance."

Officers elected were A. R. Babcock, Moore, president; and R. J. Hawes, Boise; Walter Lemmons, Grangeville; and R. V. Swanson, Pocatello, vice-presidents.

Idaho cattlemen in their resolutions opposed the Gillette bill, S. 1199, which would place restrictions on livestock marketing. The resolution held that the measure would interfere with beneficial competition existing east and west and "eventually destroy what little packing we have in Idaho."

A resolution dealing with fixing of prices of agricultural products held that many of the products are still below parity, and opposed discriminatory action in fixing agricultural prices.

Opposition to modification of the embargo against imports of dressed meats from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists was reiterated.

The stockmen protested against any reduction in tariff on canned beef or hides being considered in current nego-

tiations of trade agreements with Argentina and Uruguay.

The measure S. 1261, which would make it a federal felony to move stolen cattle across a state line, was endorsed.

One of the resolutions stated that there should be equal representation of agriculture and industry in all matters pertaining to the defense program.

In connection with Bang's disease, range cattlemen were urged to follow the calfhood vaccination method of control.

The American Meat Institute and the National Live Stock and Meat Board were commended for their work on meat sales promotion.

The association objected to reduction in rates on dressed meats originating in the midwestern packing areas destined to western states. Another resolution dealing with transportation favored ICC power to remove state barriers on weight, size, length, etc., of trucks.

The stockmen opposed the setting aside of land for park, recreation, winter sports, and game reserve areas that will impair or exclude grazing use.

Endorsement was given S. 1030, which calls for legalizing advisory boards and guarantees renewal of existing permits so long as the areas are continued in grazing use.

One of the resolutions observed that the Grazing Service is in need of a larger field personnel so that ranges can be policed properly and data on stockmen's rights can be assembled and ten-year permits issued; urged legislation authorizing 50 per cent of forest fees for range improvement; favored turning over of SCS lands to Grazing Service or Forest Service, whichever the lands are a logical part of; opposed grouping of state school lands, "as such grouping would result in lost grazing areas to stockmen;" and urged appropriation of funds to provide development on public lands of trails, bridges, water, fencing, and for re-seeding.

The commissioner of agriculture and the state bureau of animal industry were asked to co-operate with the stockmen to correct laxity in investigating livestock diseases and inadequacy in cattle inspection work.

The organization asked the governor to "staff and maintain a department of brand inspection," and that state patrolmen be required to inspect truck shipments on the highways.

Members of the association endorsed the calf plan, which has "stimulated interest in the finishing of our feeder cattle," and commended the bull sale, which will make for "constantly improved quality of our beef cattle."

The 1940 Census showed that approximately 28,000,000 turkeys are raised annually in the United States, compared with less than 17,000,000 ten years ago. Despite this increase, production is still insufficient to provide each American family one turkey per year.

## OREGON ASSOCIATION MEETS AT ONTARIO

OREGON CATTLEMEN MET ON May 15-17 for the annual convention of the Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association of Oregon at Ontario, hub of cattle activities in eastern Oregon a half-century ago and still an important "cow town." Between 300 and 400 cattlemen heard outstanding speakers on a wide range of subjects affecting the livestock industry.

The welcoming address of Mayor Elmo E. Smith was responded to by Robert Lister, of Paulina, followed by President Wayne Stewart's annual address and Secretary C. L. Jamison's report.

Speakers included: Professor A. R. Oliver, of Oregon State College, speaking on "Cold Storage Systems and Their Effect on the Cattle Industry;" Robert Ware, Portland, "Markets and Producers;" Marvin Klemme, author and grazing expert, Burns, "Our State Lands and the Livestock Industry;" Dr. Orlo Maughan, Spokane, "Price Cycles in the Cattle Industry;" George K. Aiken, Ontario, "The Game Situation in Oregon;" R. G. Larson, Nyssa, "Farm Economics in the Snake River Valley."

An inspection of the nearly 2,000 steers on feed at Nyssa was made the afternoon of the first day. The tour also included a circle trip around the Snake River Valley.

Speakers on the last day's sessions included: Professor E. R. Jackman; Corvallis, "Alfalfa and Forage Plants;" E. E. Birkmaier, Washington, "Grazing Problems on the National Forests;" J. D. Mickle, Salem, "The State and Agriculture;" M. J. Gilson, deputy fire marshal, "Rural Fire Protection;" Mac Hoke, president of the Oregon Wool Growers' Association; Dr. W. H. Lytle, state veterinarian, Salem, "Calf Vaccination and Control of Bang's Disease on the Range;" O. D. Molohon, Washington, "The Livestock Industry and the Taylor Grazing Act;" Professor P. M. Brandt, Corvallis, "Land Use Problems;" F. E. Mollin, secretary, American National Live Stock Association, Denver, "National Livestock Problems." A. R. Williamson, of the American Meat Institute, and O. M. Plummer, a director of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, discussed the work being done by these organizations in the advertising and promotion of meat.

Resolutions adopted by the Oregon cattlemen—

Favored elimination of bottlenecks, such as size limitations in transportation, to the end that there be free movement at lowest possible cost.

Urged the Portland stockyards to restore its former method of posting receipts, showing price on scale tickets, etc.

Opposed S. 1199, a bill by Senator Gillette to restrict livestock marketing.

Protested against admission of dressed

meat from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists.

Protested against the lowering of tariffs on the plea of emergency.

Opposed consolidation of the Forest Service and the Taylor Grazing Administration.

Urged President Roosevelt to fill the vacancy in the office of chief of the Forest Service.

Endorsed the range program of the AAA.

Urged modification of the Wagner Labor Relations Act in the public interest.

Protested against the practice of labor unions being allowed to issue permits on payment of high fees before American citizens are allowed to work on government projects.

Thanked the officials of the American National Live Stock Association and its legislative committee for their able representation in Washington.

Urged stockmen to patronize markets where competitive bidding exists.

Urged stockmen not to delay marketing this year for fear labor troubles may interfere with regular marketing.

Commended officials of the Taylor Grazing Administration for expediting their range surveys and urged that ten-year permits be granted as soon as possible.

Endorsed the McNary bill for a two per cent contribution on the value of public lands in lieu of taxes.

Urged the state board of control to work out a policy of handling state school lands that will maintain present livestock operations.

Urged that any change in the Taylor Grazing fee be made only on change in market value of livestock and changes in cost of production.

Approved the principles of S. 1030, the Johnson bill, which would legalize advisory boards in the Forest Service and guarantee renewal of existing permits so long as the areas are continued in grazing use.

Urged that federal grazing lands now under control of bureaus outside the Forest and Grazing services be turned over to either the Forest Service or the Grazing Service.

Commended the advertising program of the American Meat Institute and the work of the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

Urged reduction in livestock rates if any reduction is made in meat rates.

The members adopted a new constitution and by-laws. John Day was chosen as the convention city for 1942.

Wayne Stewart, Dayville, was re-elected president; C. L. Jamison, Canyon City, secretary.

For every dollar of internal revenue collected by the federal government in 1940, state governments collected 86 cents, according to the Census. In 1919, state collections were only 12 cents for each dollar of federal taxes.

## MANDAN HOST TO NORTH DAKOTA GROUP

AN ENTHUSIASTIC GROUP OF cattlemen and their families, representing all parts of the state, assembled May 19-20 at Mandan, North Dakota, for the twelfth annual convention of the North Dakota Stock Growers' Association. The varied, well-planned program gave those present an opportunity to compare notes with experts on many subjects of pertinent interest.

Following the call to order, members and visitors were welcomed to Mandan by Mayor C. G. Byerly, and, in the absence of her cattleman husband, Mrs. Matt Crowley ably responded. The annual message of the president, Andrew Johnston, giving a word picture of the organization's accomplishments of the past year, completed the first morning's program.

Speakers on the afternoon program included L. J. Hablas, Armour and Company, West Fargo; Russell Thorp, secretary of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, who gave a report on brand inspection, always a subject of vital interest to producers; M. K. Higgins, Mandan, speaking on state livestock laws; and Mr. Pyle, of Armour and Company.

Those present also were privileged to witness an instructive beef carcass cutting demonstration by Al Severson, of the animal husbandry division of the North Dakota Agricultural College at Fargo. Queena Stewart, secretary of the South Dakota Stock Growers' Association, extended a welcome to North Dakotans for the golden anniversary convention of that organization to be held June 9-11 at Rapid City, South Dakota.

The program of the second morning was devoted to association business, reports, and election of directors, followed by a talk by Lawrence F. Mollin, assistant secretary of the American National Live Stock Association. He stressed need of unified action through organization in the industry, citing past legislation brought about by this strength. Many pending matters, he said, require the full support of all.

Speakers heard on the afternoon program included Dr. Warren Whitman, assistant botanist, North Dakota Agricultural College at Fargo, discussing native grasses; Jack Maynard, Billings, Montana, former dean of agriculture at Utah Agricultural College, who told those assembled some interesting facts about supplemental feeding of range cattle; George Weaver, AAA office, Fargo, on AAA range program; and Dr. Fred C. Driver, BAI, Bismarck, on calfhood vaccination for Bang's disease.

All resolutions adopted by the American National Live Stock Association at Fort Worth were given approval by the North Dakota Stock Growers' Association, with the exception of one referring to the Farm Credit Administration.



# The BEST FED Army in the World

"An Army marches on its stomach," declared Napoleon, strikingly summing up what able military commanders have long known—that adequate food is the foremost essential for the soldier.

The United States Army, now approaching 1,400,000 men, is the best-fed military force in the world. The army ration—carefully prepared by the nation's foremost dietitians—is substantially superior in food value to the diet of the average U. S. civilian.

Army leaders know that meat makes men, so our soldiers get an abundance of meat in their daily rations. Thus the American livestock and meat packing industries are important cogs in the nation's defense program.

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Other resolutions passed at the meeting opposed passage of the recently introduced Gillette bill (S. 1199) which would restrict freedom of marketing stock; opposed discriminatory action in the fixing of agricultural prices; opposed the proposed lowering of tariffs on canned beef and hides imported into this country; asked for equal representation between agriculture and labor and industry in all emergency administrations created for the handling of the defense program; and thanked the American National Live Stock Association for its efforts in behalf of the industry.

On Monday, May 19, Amy Erickson, of the extension department of the North Dakota Agricultural College, gave the ladies a beef cooking demonstration which was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed.

L. C. Hulett, of Mandan, was the capable toastmaster at the annual banquet, at which the delegates heard, as guest speaker, John Brandt, president of the Land O' Lakes Creameries, Minneapolis.

Officers for the ensuing year, to be chosen by the board of directors, will be listed in the next issue of the PRODUCER.

More than 200,000,000 pounds of soy bean oil are used each year in manufacture of shortening and more than 70,000,000 pounds in the manufacture of oleomargarine, according to the Census.

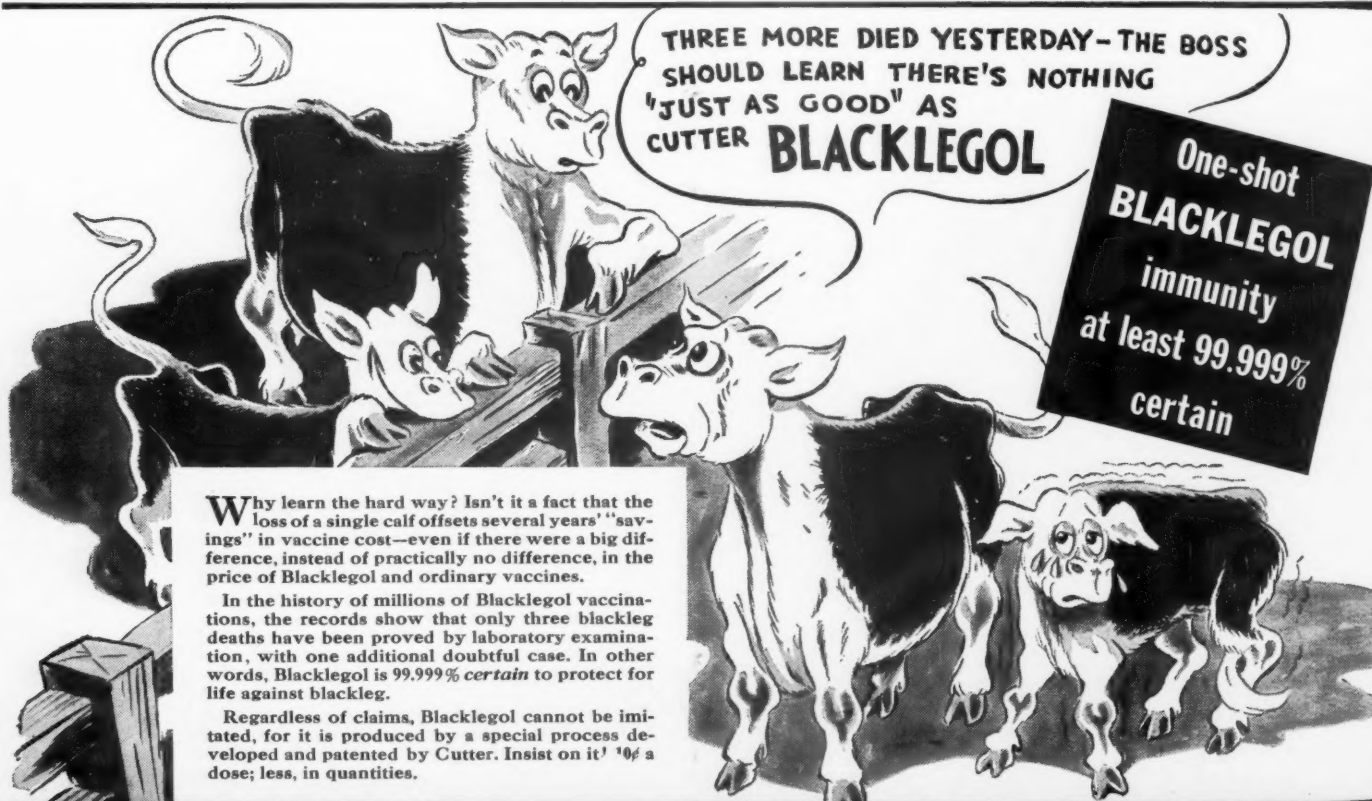
## NOTES ON MEETINGS

**O**KANOGAN COUNTY (WASHINGTON) Live Stock Association members meeting at Okanogan passed resolutions commending the American Meat Institute and National Live Stock and Meat Board for their work in advertising meat; objecting to modification of the embargo applying to countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists; asking for a more liberal lending policy on ranch loans by the Federal Land Bank, suggesting that both livestock and ranch values be allowed to serve as collateral in livestock production credit loans; asking that the American National Live Stock Association reaffirm its position of a year ago in objecting to consolidation of the Forest Service and Grazing Service, and endorsing the principles of S.1030 (the Johnson bill), which would establish forest advisory boards and generally afford stability to forest land users. Action under the McCarran resolution calling for investigation of public lands was urged. Other resolutions asked that land in the public land states be not acquired by the government "unless compensatory adjustment be made to such states to shield their tax structures;" asked that the Secretary of Agriculture appoint a producer on standing land use committees where such function; commended the Bureau of Animal Industry in its calfhood vaccination work, "which removes the threat of compulsory blood test and slaughter programs;" endorsed

the McCarran animal theft bill, making it a federal felony to move stolen cattle across a state line; asked that Washington State College and other agencies study the plant, brush, and timber problem and develop a method of eradication and control; and asked the Great Northern railroad to permit persons accompanying livestock shipments to ride as passengers from Wenatchee to Seattle and return.

## RESOLUTION URGES SURVEY

At a meeting at Glenwood Springs, Colorado, on April 5, the advisory board of the Western Slope Cattle Growers' Association passed a resolution asking for a detailed survey of the hay and grain produced in the irrigated areas tributary to forest and public domain ranges in western Colorado. The resolution further stated that, "if it appears that there is a surplus of hay and grain production as compared with range now used as summer range, then appropriate steps be taken to increase summer range by the use of range now used as spring and fall range and by development of water on range now used as winter range, in order that a better balance be reached between potential winter feed supplies and potential summer range." The resolution said that the Forest Service has "failed to recognize" certain provisions in the grazing regulations, in that the Service has permitted large numbers of stock to graze on the forest



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**In the history of millions of Blacklegol vaccinations, the records show that only three blackleg deaths have been proved by laboratory examination, with one additional doubtful case. In other words, Blacklegol is 99.999% certain to protect for life against blackleg.**

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reserves without requiring the owners thereof to own or operate improved ranch property or to raise any winter feed. The practice, it was stated, has upset a balanced operation of using the forests for summer grazing, improved lands for winter feed, and other spring and fall lands for grazing when not on the forest or the ranches. In regard to regulations under the Taylor Grazing Act, it was stated that they "have failed to give any greater consideration to improved hay and grain producing ranches than is accorded pasture lands, each being rated according to its alleged production of forage without consideration of the additional protection given livestock and the community by the production of hay and grain during the winter months."

#### NEW MEXICO BOARD TO MEET

President Tom Clayton of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association has invited members of the association and cowmen in general to attend the first quarterly executive board meeting to be held at Lordsburg on June 21. While the principal purpose of the board meeting is to attend to business before the association, the morning program will include addresses by Burton Roach, Hillsboro, chairman of the legislative committee, who will report on developments of the last state legislature concerning the livestock industry; W. C.

Simpson, president of the New Mexico Cattle Sanitary Board; George Cureton, chairman, Southwestern Fair and Feeder Calf Association; A. D. Brownfield, Deming, state association president; C. F. Dierking, regional grazer for Division of Grazing, and Forest Service officials and others. B. A. Christmas, Las Cruces, vice-president of the association, will be chairman of the general resolutions committee for the board meeting.

#### MONTANA COUNTY GROUP MEETS

Clancy, Montana, was the place of the annual meeting on April 19 of the North Jefferson County Stock Association. Speakers at the gathering were: Dr. W. J. Butler, Montana state veterinarian, who discussed the Bang's disease program, and E. A. Phillips, who talked about the livestock situation in general and the work of the Montana Stock Growers' Association. Phillips is secretary of the state organization.

#### CALIFORNIA COUNTY MEETINGS

Cattlemen of Calaveras County, California, met at San Andreas on April 12, with C. J. Tiscornia, president of the Calaveras Live Stock Association, presiding. Among speakers before the group was John Curry, secretary of the California Cattlemen's Association. . . . President Sig Hobler of the Fresno County Cattlemen's Association pre-

sided at the spring meeting of that organization at Sanger, California, on April 12. Speakers were: Earl Schlaman, secretary of the Pacific States Live Stock Marketing Association; California Cattlemen's Association President Ted Chamberlin; CCA Secretary John Curry; and Clyde Harris, of the Cattle Protection Service. . . . Members of the Amador-El Dorado Live Stock Association, meeting at Placerville, California, April 5, elected E. E. Payen, of Folsom, president; J. C. Forni, of El Dorado, vice-president; and Camilla Celio, secretary-treasurer. Among the speakers were Loren Bamert, vice-president of the CCA; Secretary Chet Wing of the California Wool Growers' Association; CCA Secretary John Curry; and Clyde Harris, head of the Cattle Protection Service.

#### TRADE CONFERENCE

Trade and government representatives at a conference in Washington, D. C., on May 2, called by Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones, heard discussions on food price and distribution problems arising in connection with the national defense program. The American National Live Stock Association was represented by C. J. Abbott, of Hyannis, Nebraska, members of the executive committee. Leon Henderson, administrator of the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply, told the conference that

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NO one knows what tomorrow holds in store for the livestock industry, and, that being so, it is all the more important that your national association be made as strong as possible.

You can do your part by lending not only your moral support but by carrying your full share of the necessary expense. As we have told you so many times before, the small annual budget of the American National is many times less than the saving to stockmen alone in the victory we won in maintaining the 85 per cent stocker and feeder rates, to say nothing of numerous other important activities. Send your membership today—all it costs you is one cent a head. You also receive the AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER monthly by virtue of your membership, and thus you are kept constantly informed on all matters of importance.

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Cattlemen continue to seek the shortest and most economical route to our home markets through their own co-operative selling agencies, represented by 21 sales units of the

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while the government has limited fixing maximum prices to wholesale commodities, "we can step into the consumer goods field if necessary." Secretary of Commerce Jones in his talk before the group said that the powers opposed to democracy can give this country a lot of trouble. "They can reduce our living standards, for we cannot compete with slave labor," he said. He wanted the conferees to go back to their businesses "and try to spread the feeling that the whole world situation is very serious." The food section of the conference released a report saying "that it was agreed that with existing machinery in government and industry it should not be necessary to resort to anything like forcible government controls." It opposed price fixing and said that prices of many farm commodities are too low.

### CONTINUES REWARD

Members of the Middle Park Stock Growers' Association (Colorado) meeting at Kremmling in April re-elected the officers of the association as follows: Fay DeBerard, president; Amos Horn, vice-president; George Field, secretary-treasurer. The convention agreed to continue the association's \$250 to \$1,000 reward for arrest and conviction of stock thieves. The new one-half per cent additional charge on federal farm loans levied on stockmen using public grazing land was discussed and a resolution passed protesting against the raise.

### MONTANA MEETINGS

A two-week schedule of livestock meetings throughout the eastern part of Montana has been held recently under the management of E. P. Orcutt, livestock specialist at Montana State College. A total of 1,333 stockmen registered at the meetings, which were limited to one afternoon, either starting off with a luncheon or ending with a dinner. Many of those attending expressed desire that such meetings become an annual event.

### LITTLE INTERNATIONAL SHOW

More than 2,500 spectators witnessed the events at the 1941 Little Interna-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)

### CALENDAR

#### JUNE

- 3-5—Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show, North Salt Lake, Utah.
- 3-5—Wyoming Stock Growers' Ass'n Convention, Worland.
- 9-11—South Dakota Stock Growers' Ass'n, Rapid City.
- 12-14—Nebraska Stock Growers' Ass'n, Ogallala.
- 16-18—Second Annual Colorado Hereford Breeders' Tour.
- 19-21—Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Ass'n, Alamosa.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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### AUCTION MARKETS

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO A VISITOR to any of our great central markets would have imagined that the problem of marketing livestock had been settled in this country for all time. Through them flowed daily thousands upon thousands of cattle, hogs, and sheep; and from the packing plants near-by went the finished product to supply the consuming centers of the country.

But a visitor today wonders just what were the causes that have brought great changes in marketing since the close of the World War; and this will be the subject of argument for years to come. Some will contend that the exchanges grew too powerful for their own good and that the establishment of arbitrary rules and pressure put upon the packers to cease all outside buying were the seeds of the changes to come. Others will say that it is merely proof that this is an ever-changing world and that just about the time one thinks a business or a custom is so well established that nothing can change it, competition in some new and unexpected form almost overnight heralds great changes to come.

In the case of the markets, the first major development was the growth of direct buying by the packers. This has been the most marked in the hog department, and apparently there were two major factors responsible for it: First, the growth of the consumer market on the Pacific coast, making it economical to buy hogs west of the Missouri River and ship direct to coast points in many cases without moving through a market; second, the sharp increase in volume of business done by the so-called "interior" packers—independents which expanded rapidly during the World War, devoting

themselves to the home market while the big packers were busy filling government contracts. At the close of the war, the big packers deemed it necessary to establish buying concentration points in the territory of these independents in order to protect their own supply of desirable grade hogs.

More recently there has been still a further development, and that has come in the form of auction sale rings. In many parts of the Corn Belt, these will be found at practically every junction point of any importance. All kinds of livestock are handled, and in some of the smaller sales farm implements, equipment, household goods, etc. That the auction market appeals to the livestock grower cannot be denied. First, it gives him an outlet for less-than-carload lots close to home; second, there is a fascination about an auction sale, attested to by the large crowds that gather wherever an auction of any kind is held; third, it gives the seller an opportunity to see his own stock sold—something not always possible where the market is located a few hundred miles away and particularly where the shipments are relatively small.

The auction sale day in these smaller communities is the big day of the week. The family goes along, and the women shop while the men are in the sale ring.

This new system of markets is bound to be a major factor in consideration of the Gillette bill, S. 1199, referred to editorially last month. Not easily will these communities and the patrons thereof consent to the passage of legislation that would prohibit purchase at such points of fat livestock by packers engaged in interstate commerce. While such restriction is undoubtedly unconstitutional, the auction markets will take no chances and will fight to the bitter end against the attempt of the central markets to reduce their scope of operation in this fashion. Besides, they contend—and logically enough—that, if legislation could be passed to prevent the sale of fat livestock at such points, later on it might be extended to cover feeder livestock, putting them entirely out of business.

The merits of the auction market have long been discussed, and in most states laws passed regulating their operations in much the fashion that the central markets are regulated. It is interesting to note that some of the central markets have taken a lead from the auction yards and have established auction sales on certain days of the week. Others have developed facilities for making such a transition possible on very short notice.

L. C. Brite, of Marfa, Texas, past president of the American National Live Stock Association, has long advocated establishment of auction sales at central markets, and the turn of events rather indicates that his reasoning was sound. At any rate, it seems highly improbable that legislation such as the Gillette bill

can be passed. Therefore, the central markets, instead of trying to legislate their competitors out of business, will have to compete with them. Certainly all the advantage is on their side. Long established at points strategically picked, with packing houses right at their very doors, they have only to convince livestock producers and feeders that theirs is the best market and the best system of marketing, and business will come to them.

Perhaps the answer is to take a leaf out of the auction markets' book and give the auction sale a fair trial at the central markets. The success of the feeder sales at the Denver market during show week would indicate that the practice might well be extended.

### SHOES FOR THE ARMY

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE history of the Army, shoes with composition soles have been purchased, contracts for 548,438 pairs having been awarded April 19. It is claimed that the award was made because of an advance in bids on leather-soled shoes between February and April of 3 or 4 cents a pair.

It seems rather strange that the Army, which has up to now refused to deviate from the rule in use the world over of equipping men who march on foot with leather-soled service shoes, should in time of emergency take up a practically untried substitute for experimentation.

It is quite possible that the composition soles may wear slightly longer than the leather soles; but they are not so comfortable, being ready conductors of heat or cold and much more slippery when the going is wet. Aside from these facts, we produce a large proportion of the leather we consume in this country, while practically all the rubber is imported, so we are not helping solve our shipping problem by turning to a substitute which has to be imported. Then, too, producers of livestock have a right to expect their government to use domestic products to the fullest extent practical, and the excuse of the very slight increase in price noted above is not a sufficient one on which to justify this experiment.

As a matter of fact, contracts for war materials are not being let entirely on the basis of low cost, and this is likewise true in the case of shoes. Instead, the theory of spreading the work to high-cost producers is being generally recognized. That being true with regard to industry, it is still further ground why the product of American agriculture should be used, even though slightly higher in cost than the imported product. If it is practical to subsidize the high-cost industrial manufacturer by allocating orders on a basis higher than the lowest bid received, why should the American agricultural producer be penalized and the foreign producer favored

for a few cents per pair on shoes for the Army?

The Army must have had good and sufficient reasons up to now for sticking to leather footwear. Now when it is rapidly expanding, at perhaps the most critical time in our history, is a poor time to experiment with substitutes to the probable discomfort of the wearers in order to save a few pennies.

## PRICE CONTROL

ONE OF THE FIRST STEPS THAT a government usually takes when it transforms its economy from a peacetime to a war-time basis is to control prices. It is deemed a necessary thing to do. No one was surprised when the National Defense Advisory Committee drew up maximum price schedules for certain strategic commodities or when the more elaborate organization of the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply was created. But interest in the subject has been awakened, and criticism is not absent.

When the OPACS recently issued orders freezing steel and copper prices, critics asked why the government did not give similar treatment to wages. Did the government reason that expanding business would automatically bring the profit to take care of all wage advances? Why, some asked, should not the manufacturer have his profit, within reason? The government could tax it and thereby get maximum tax collection. Why, when Price Control Administrator Leon Henderson recently exerted pressure to lower hide prices did he not inquire more fully into the factors that made up the price? He would have found hides not unduly high.

It is inevitable that any price-control policy in a democracy should meet with objections. The experience gained from the price fixing, rationing, etc., in the last World War will help in the present emergency; but, even so, some unfavorable economic results are liable to follow. This is so unless to the control of prices is added regulation of the factors that go to make up prices. And we do not want that. Nevertheless, it is desirable to learn what we can of the intricacies of price control.

Germany has had the longest experience with price control. Data on that experience should be interesting. They are forthcoming in an article in *Foreign Commerce Weekly* by Louis Domeratzky, of the Division of International Economy. In his conclusions, Mr. Domeratzky has this to say:

"The first impulse in dealing with a sudden scarcity, real or imaginary, that might be exploited by the speculative elements in the trade to the injury of the consumer is to set a maximum price limit—a sort of stopgap that is expected to prevent the development of a speculative price movement, particu-

larly as regards articles of daily necessity. . . .

"Like many simple solutions for complicated problems, the maximum price policy is soon discovered to be inadequate. It cannot be used efficiently in dealing with prices of imported goods; it lacks elasticity; it does not permit of differentiation between producers with different degrees of efficiency; and, unless supported by other drastic measures, it does not prevent the withholding of goods from the market. It does not influence supply when the entire supply is short of the demand. It soon becomes the minimum price.

"With the discovery of the inadequacy of the first step in price control, some countries, notably Germany, enter upon the second stage, which generally involves the government in a more constructive and fundamental participation in price formation. The government finds itself forced to investigate the various factors that go into the price structure, covering the whole field of production and distribution. . . .

"The government must, of course, also intervene directly on the supply side. This is accomplished in a number of ways: by commandeering supplies and securing equitable distribution through government or government supervised agencies; by forcing production into certain channels; by rationing; by eliminating waste and uneconomic channels of distribution. In other words, price is no longer depended upon to perform its normal functions. . . .

"In this stage of price-control policy the government tends to get away more and more from purely economic factors and is influenced largely by social factors, in order to provide for equitable distribution of diminishing supplies among the entire population, with much less regard for purchasing capacity than prevails under normal conditions.

"By this time price has lost its most important economic functions—it can no longer determine investment of capital or production or distribution of the final product. New industrial facilities now come into existence largely at the command of the government—the most important customer—in many cases with the government financial support or guarantee; fixed prices and rationing and direct and indirect limitation on profits, in addition to heavy taxation, take away a good share of the reward for the entrepreneur's risk, but under emergency conditions the risk is also diminished. . . ."

Mr. Domeratzky has shown here that there are certain phases of the "complicated problems" in which our interest must remain only academic; for the American way of life, price control must be as efficient as possible but must not be elaborated upon a single step beyond the needs in the emergency nor continued beyond the period of the emergency.

## Con S. Maddox



Con S. Maddox

Con S. Maddox, thirty-seven, secretary of the Washington Cattlemen's Association and extension animal husbandman at the Washington State College, widely known and well liked in the livestock industry of the Northwest, died on May 3, in his automobile while en route to his home at Pullman, Washington. He died apparently from a heart attack. He will

be missed not only by the stockmen of Washington, but by many in adjoining states, and by officials of various state and national associations who had the opportunity of working with him. Born in Linneus, Missouri, Maddox graduated from the University of Missouri in 1925. He was engaged in experimental breeding work operated by the University of Missouri and the Department of Agriculture, and later was extension animal husbandman at the University of Nebraska. His work with the Washington college started in 1934. He was general superintendent of the junior livestock show in Spokane. He is survived by his widow, a son, a baby daughter, and his mother and sister.

## Hal H. Roberts

Hal H. Roberts, sixty-one, livestock commission man and exchange official at Omaha, passed away at his home in Omaha recently after an illness of several months. He had spent nearly all his life on the livestock market. He was born at Ashland, Nebraska, and attended Omaha grade and high schools and graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1901. From then on he was connected with the livestock commission company founded by his father, the late John Fitz Roberts. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, and his mother.

## A. B. Miller

A. B. Miller, sixty-two, founder of Fontana, California, and president of the Fontana Farm Company, passed away on April 14. Miller was born at Richlands, North Carolina. He studied in Washington, D. C., and went to California in 1896, continuing his education at Pomona College. He had been president of the state board of agriculture, president of the California State Fair, and a regent of the University of California. In 1913, Miller laid out the townsite of Fontana, planted thousands of

fruit trees in the district, built it into an important poultry center, and later introduced hog-raising. In 1930 he started cattle raising, organizing the B. B. Company. He was a member of the American National Live Stock Association and the California Cattlemen's Association.

### Elmer A. Beamer

Elmer A. Beamer, leader in the co-operative marketing movement, passed away at his home in Blissfield, Michigan, May 14, of a heart attack. Beamer assisted in many of the early attempts to organize farmers and took the lead in developing co-operative marketing organizations. He served on the organization board of the National Live Stock Producers' Association in 1922 and as president of that organization from 1929 until its reorganization in 1930 into the National Live Stock Marketing Association. He was elected president of the National Live Stock Marketing Association in 1937, which position he held until his appointment as commissioner of agriculture for the State of Michigan in April, 1939, from which he resigned last April. Among other national organizations in which he took an active interest were the National Council of Farmer Co-operatives and the National Live Stock and Meat Board, having served as a member on their boards of directors.

### Charles Ham

Charles Ham, ninety years old, pioneer rancher of Black Hills, South Dakota, died on April 28. His death came only three days after that of his brother, John N. Hamm, eighty. Both men had long been engaged in the ranching business. Charles Ham came to the Black Hills in 1878. In the early days at Rapid City he was a butcher and rancher. He became owner of several ranches, the major one of 1,100 acres near Piermont, now operated by a son, Ernest B. Ham, who is a member of the American National Live Stock Association. He was a charter member of the Western South Dakota Live Stock Association, one-time state legislator, and a director of the First National Bank of Rapid City. He is survived by his wife, four sons, a daughter, a sister, and a brother. John N. Hamm followed his older brother to the Black Hills in 1880. He also had served as state legislator. He died at his home a few miles south of Rapid City after a long illness.



Charles Ham

## WASHINGTON

**MAY IS THE MONTH IN WHICH** foreign trade week is celebrated. Secretary of State Cordell Hull joined the observance with a statement that it was none too early to lay down some of the principles by which policies must be guided after the war. Points listed were that "extreme nationalism must not again be permitted to express itself in excessive trade restrictions; non-discrimination in international commerce relations must be the rule, so that international trade may grow and prosper; raw material supplies must be available to all nations without discrimination; international agreements regulating the supply of commodities must be so handled as to protect fully the interest of the consuming countries and their people; the institutions and arrangements of international finance must be so set up that they lend aid to essential enterprises and the continuous development of all countries and permit the payment through processes of trade consonant with the welfare of all countries." President Roosevelt, Secretary Hull, and other foreign trade week speakers said that totalitarian peace objectives were the antitheses of that program of making the world's goods available to all.

### NEW TRADE AGREEMENTS

The public was given notice by the Department of State on May 12 that the United States intends to negotiate trade agreements with Argentina and Uruguay. Canned beef is one of the products that will come under consideration for possible granting of concessions by the United States. Other products of the livestock industry will also be considered (see page 17). Argentine exports in the first four months of this year were down in value 32.9 per cent from the corresponding period of 1940, according to press notices. Most of the trade decline, it was reported was caused by reduced shipments of grains and linseed. Wool and metal exports were larger than last year.

### ANTI-RUSTLING BILL

The anti-rustling bill is again in Congress. Introduced on March 31 by Senator Pat McCarran, of Nevada, the new cattle theft bill (S. 1261) replaces his thrice vetoed national animal theft measure. The new bill would make it a federal felony to transport interstate "one or more [stolen] bulls, steers, oxen, cows, heifers, or calves," or their carcasses. The old McCarran measures covered all livestock, and one of them even included by amendment chickens. The measure has already passed the Senate. One change was made in the bill. A Senate committee took out a \$50 minimum

value clause. The measure should become law, observers say, since the "petit larceny" features of the old bills have all but been eliminated.

### TRUTH IN FABRIC

A joint resolution introduced by Senator Elmer Thomas, of Oklahoma, seeks to postpone the date the Wool Products Labeling Act is to take effect until thirty days after the signing of a treaty of peace between Great Britain and Germany. The act is scheduled to take effect on July 14. The law requires that manufacturers and dealers in woolen goods and fabrics furnish information as to the wool content of such articles. In a joint protest against Senator Thomas' resolution, a number of farm organizations said that "We see no reason why we should put off telling the truth and furnishing accurate information to the public until thirty days after the making and signing of the treaty of peace between Great Britain and Germany."

### INVESTIGATING FOOD AGENCIES

An investigation of "restraint of trade in livestock markets, the meat packing industry, and other food agencies" was started in Chicago recently by the Department of Justice. The investigation is part of a nation-wide campaign by the anti-trust division of the Department of Justice against restraints in the manufacture and distribution of food products. The meat investigation, according to a report in *National Provisioner*, will concentrate on the price of dressed meat and the market practices of packers, order buyers, and commission men. Among other foods which will be subject to investigation on a nation-wide scale are bread, fish, milk, cheese, canned fruit, vegetables, and fresh fruits.

### PRICE CONTROL

Teeth in price control are seen in a letter from the Justice Department to Price Control Administrator Leon Henderson. According to the letter, facilities of the Antitrust Division and the FBI will be employed when the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply finds prices "being driven up or held up by any method or device which is a probable violation of anti-trust laws." . . . At a recent trade conference, Henderson said that even though price-fixing is designed for operation on wholesale commodities, "we can step into the consumer goods field if necessary."

### LIVESTOCK'S FHA

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in the livestock loan insurance bill introduced by Senator Nye, of North Dakota. It provides for insurance by the Farm Credit Administration of loans made by financial institutions to borrowers wanting to purchase livestock for restocking or foundation purposes. Drought has cut livestock numbers in some parts of the Great Plains. The bill is designed to encourage their replacement.

#### STOCKYARDS UNDER ICC

Jurisdiction over rates charged by thirteen stockyards for handling livestock within their terminals has been assumed by the ICC under an order based upon the finding that the thirteen yards are common carriers within the terms of the Interstate Commerce Act, because of the ownership or operation of loading and unloading facilities and since they perform services for which they collected charges from the railroads. Stockyards affected by the ruling are located in the following cities: Denver, Colorado; Portland, Oregon; Seattle, Washington; San Francisco and Los Angeles, California; St. Paul, Minnesota; West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Cincinnati and Cleveland, Ohio; Louisville, Kentucky; Jersey City, New Jersey, and New York City.

#### INCREASED MILK PRODUCTION

Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard, in his request last month for an increase of from 6 to 8 per cent in milk production, said that plans for encouraging dairy production would include (1) assurance to farmers of feed supplies at stabilized prices; (2) support of prices generally through department purchases of dairy products; (3) increase of proportion of the milk supply used in products most needed for export, particularly evaporated milk and cheese, through purchases; and (4) maintenance of dry skim milk prices, through government purchases.

#### NEAR-PARITY LOANS

By a vote of 75 to 2 the Senate approved the bill guaranteeing farmers government loans equal to 85 per cent of parity on the five basic commodities: wheat, corn, cotton, rice, and tobacco. Parity may be defined as a price or income which will have the same purchasing power that farm income had in the five years preceding the first World War.

#### WOOL IN DEFENSE

The importance of wool in national defense was shown in figures given out by OPM Purchasing Director Nelson. He estimated that 259,000,000 pounds will be needed for the armed forces, the Red Cross, WPA, and other branches. This is about 28 per cent of the total United States supply.

**AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER**

## U. S. TO NEGOTIATE TRADE PACT WITH ARGENTINA

**I**NTENTION TO NEGOTIATE TRADE agreements with Argentina and Uruguay, in which the United States will consider granting concessions in the present 6-cent tariff rate on canned beef, was announced by the Department of State on May 12.

Other products which will be laid open to possible concessions by this country include, in the case of Argentina, vegetable oils, tallow, oleo oil and oleo stearine, meat extracts, cheeses, corned beef hash, wools, cattle hides and skins, dog food, blood, bones, lamb and sheep fur and skins, fertilizers, hoofs, horns, sausage casings, and horse, sheep, lamb, goat and kid skins; in the case of Uruguay, tallow, oleo oil and oleo stearine, meat extract, wools, wool pelts, cattle hides and skins, blood, bones, fertilizers and sausage casings.

Public hearing before the Committee for Reciprocity Information is scheduled to start on June 23.

Representing the livestock industry at the hearings, as well as by written brief, will be F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, who has already several times during the present era of tariff slashing appeared before the committee on behalf of the livestock industry.

### DEMAND STILL IMPROVING

Demand for farm products continues to respond to improvement in general economic conditions and consumer purchasing power, according to the Department of Agriculture. Industrial production, recovering quickly from the relapse brought on by industrial strikes in April, was headed for a new high in May. Gradual improvement in employment, pay rolls, and consumer demand for farm products should continue through the latter half of the year, the experts said. Concerning beef cattle, the department said: slaughter of cattle and calves in 1941 is expected to total around 5 per cent greater than in 1940, with much of the increase in marketings of grain-fed cattle. In the first four months of 1940, inspected cattle slaughter was 4 per cent larger than a year earlier. Prices of the upper grades of slaughter cattle have followed a marked downward trend since mid-January, but prices of the lower grades have held about steady. Prices of feeder cattle are now high relative to prices of fat cattle.

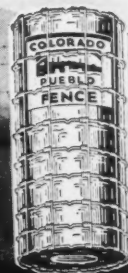
### LIVESTOCK FACTS

Tables and charts giving livestock numbers, prices, and slaughter figures to help cattlemen plan operations for the critical years ahead are represented in "Livestock Facts," a pamphlet published by F. E. Mollin, secretary of American National Live Stock Association, 515 Cooper Building, Denver—available upon request.

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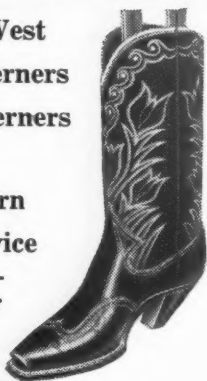
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## MARKETS

### STOCKERS, FEEDERS HOLD; FED STEERS OFF

By H. W. FRENCH

**R**ISING CORN PRICES CAUSED THE influx of many fed steers to market in recent weeks, and indications point to liberal steer runs for the next few weeks and thereafter only moderate supplies are expected. Excessive supplies at Chicago and at practically all other markets caused an uneven break in beef steer values, and in some instances new lows for the season were uncovered. Liberal supplies and indifferent dressed beef demand except for lightweight steer carcasses did not help the sellers of steers on the hoof.

Steers always predominate on the Chicago market, but quite frequently this is not true of many other points. Yet recently it was quite common for Kansas City to report from seventy-five to 100 cars of steers in a day and even at Denver there were frequently thirty to fifty loads a day. As a contrast, most markets reported the shortest supplies of cows over a prolonged period that has been noted in many years, with no immediate prospects of much heavier receipts in the near future. Fed heifers have been fairly liberal at many of the markets, and during the last month



Chicago reported the heaviest supplies of the season.

Despite the continuous downward turn in prices for slaughter steers, some profit remained in the feeding operations until recently, and at present many steers and some heifers are being marketed at a loss. In and around Denver, corn has reached a \$1.40 per cwt. basis, whereas a short time ago this commodity was costing feeders down around \$1.30. First cost of many of the steers and heifers now coming marketward was relatively high, and everything recently has combined to make for a bearish market. This is in the face of rising demand at retail for most commodities and higher prices for many foods other than meat.

United States imports of cattle and beef in the first quarter of 1941 represented 7.2 per cent of the federally inspected production, against 6.8 per cent for the like period a year ago. Both imports and domestic production of beef and veal were larger than the corresponding time in 1940, but strong domestic outlet kept prices above those of 1940. Exports of beef declined somewhat, and such shipments were mainly to the Philippines, Panama, and Latin America.

Cattle shipments from Canada and Mexico may exceed those of last year, when the movement was smaller than in 1939. So far the Canadian shipments are below the allotted quota to the United States. The movement of cattle and calves from Canada to the United States from January 1 to May 1 totaled 55,788 against 56,461 for the same period in 1940. The April 1 to May 1 movement totaled only 11,262 beef cattle against 17,241 a year earlier. Up to now the total out of Mexico is much above a year ago, and some shipments arrived recently at Denver en route to Montana, but losses were reported during a storm in Montana. Many cattle from Mexico are reported grazing in Arizona and California.

**S**HARP changes were made in most slaughter classes of cattle at Chicago since the middle of April, but the price trend was down on steers and the good-to-choice heifers, although all grades of cows and bulls worked materially upward. At mid-May choice fed steers were around \$1 to \$1.50 lower than a month earlier, while good-grade animals suffered mostly 50 cents to \$1 decline, with common and medium grades holding steady to 25 cents lower. Most of the good-to-choice heifers for the same period sagged 50 to 75 cents, with instances of \$1 loss, as contrasted with a strong to higher level for common and medium arrivals. The readjustment has brought about a narrower spread.

It has been a hit-and-miss affair on big weight steers all month, barring a few outstanding loads. Light and medium weight steers are now selling to much better advantage than heavies, as the trade has been reporting too many cattle above 1,200 pounds. Yearling and lightweight steers command a premium and probably will continue to do so for several months ahead. Common and medium grade steers during April made up a smaller part of the supply than a year ago and resulted in a relatively good market for such offerings. Good-grade steers made up over 48 per cent of the total arrivals, while choice and prime arrivals accounted for 9.9 per cent of the number taken for slaughter.

Beef cows were generally 25 to 50 cents higher than a month ago, and all grades were in broad demand, strong weight cutters getting the best call and selling relatively highest. This upturn followed gains made the preceding month, and buyers showed no hesitancy at any time, probably because low-cost beef is so easily moved. Bulls were 25 to 50 cents higher for the period and heavy sausage kinds sold at a premium. Both cows and bulls rested at mid-month at new high levels for the season. Vealers and heavy calves fluctuated greatly and frequently, but, on the whole, prices displayed a strong tone.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

During the early part of the period under review, some prime 1,307-pound fed steers at Chicago reached \$14.25 and some up to 1,539 pounds scored \$14, but during most of the month sales of heavies were most numerous at \$10.25 to \$11.50, yet the upper crust cleared with regularity at \$12 to \$13. Some 1,028-pound Colorados made \$10.25 and others averaging 1,492 pounds sold at \$11.75. There were 1,546- to 1,572-pound westerns at \$11 to \$11.15 and 1,368-pound Wyomings scored \$11.40. Canadian-bred 1,560-pound Nebraska fed steers were noted at \$10.25 and some others around 1,440 pounds sold down to \$9.90. Good-to-choice light and yearling steers sold frequently at \$10.50 to \$12.50 and few passed \$13.25, although at mid-May a load of prime 1,180-pound long yearlings fed in Illinois scored \$14.50. Common-to-medium 800- to 1,000-pound steers sold readily at \$8.35 to \$9.50. For the month all grades and representative weights were taken mostly at \$9 to \$11.75. Beef wholesalers complained that carcasses over 800 pounds were burdensome and admitted that the call centered on those below 600 pounds. Average cost of all slaughter steers at the end of April figured \$10.44 against \$9.91 a year ago and \$9.05 for the three-year average, 1938-40.

There were some 1,181-pound fed steers at Omaha as high as \$13.50 and these offerings were horned Herefords. Some averaging 1,131 pounds fed ten months sold at \$12.25. Long-fed, 1,354-pound weights cleared as high as \$12.40 and many from 1,000 to 1,375 pounds landed at \$11 to \$11.75, and any number of good-to-choice steers fed six to seven months landed at \$10.25 to \$11, while common and medium arrivals were reported at \$7.50 to \$9.50. Kansas City quoted 1,180-pound Angus steers fed in Kansas at \$12.75, best since January, with choice Colorado and Kansas animals above 1,200 pounds at \$12. Many choice 1,060- to 1,310-pound steers on that market made \$11 to \$11.50, with 888-pound and 1,423-pound offerings at \$11.25. Medium-to-good grades bulked at \$9 to \$10.75 and some kinds sold below \$8. Sioux City had steers as high as \$12.50, but the bulk sold at \$8.75 to \$10.50, although a fair quantity landed at \$10.75 to \$11.60. Good-to-choice fed steers at Denver sold largely at \$9.75 to \$11.50, with some at \$11.75 and above. Light Canadian steers at Buffalo at the end of April made \$9.50 to \$10.25, with weighty kinds topping at \$11, while medium kinds at St. Paul were quoted at \$9.75, with medium-to-good heifers at \$8.25 to \$9.25 and medium cows at \$7.25.

Choice-to-prime 1,100-pound kosher heifers at Chicago reached \$12.15, and some other light and heavy heifers scored \$11.50, but the bulk cleared at \$9.75 to \$11, although some common kinds went under \$8.50. Cows were most numerous at \$7.50 to \$8.25 and sales were not uncommon at \$8.50 to \$8.75, while some were recorded at \$9 and

above. Hardly any canners were to be had at \$5 and below, unless light, while strong weight cutters sold as high as \$7.50 and any number of cutters cleared at \$6.50 to \$7. Heavy bologna bulls sold largely at \$8 to \$8.40, although some on late days scored \$8.50 to \$8.65. Vealers were most numerous from \$12.50 down, and not many heavy calves passed \$10.

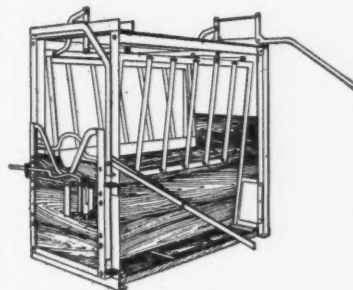
Some mixed yearlings at Kansas City were noted at \$10.85 to \$11.50, while best heifers made \$11 to \$11.25 and others sold usually at \$9 to \$10.75. Medium-to-good heifers in Omaha bulked at \$8.75 to \$10.25 but some made \$10.75, and a load averaging 938 pounds and fed seven months reached \$11.25. Sioux City reported medium-to-good heifers largely from \$8.75 to \$10 and had finished 1,018-pound offerings as high as \$11.50 and some 951-pound arrivals at \$10.85. Most of the cows at Missouri River markets sold at \$6.75 to \$8, with some higher, while sausage bulls were most numerous at \$7.50 to \$8, with some at \$8.25. Both Omaha and Denver reported choice veal calves up to \$14, and heavy good-to-choice calves at the latter point sold readily at \$10 to \$12. Heifers at Denver bulked at \$9.25 to \$10.50 but some reached \$11, and heavy sausage bulls were noted at \$8.25 to \$8.50.

**D**EMAND for cattle and calves suitable for country purposes held relatively good despite the bearish turn made by slaughter steers, the trend of which generally influences the stocker and feeder situation. The market was somewhat irregular, but light cattle and all cows continued to sell to good advantage. Heavy and medium weight feeder steers slowed down materially and finishers were less urgent competitors for fleshy arrivals upward of 900 pounds. Mid-May found the general stocker and feeder levels at Chicago steady to 25 cents lower than a month earlier, although many of the heavy steers were as much as 50 cents down. Some of the calves also showed as much as 50 cents decline but cows taken on country account showed an upward trend, the general gain measuring 25 to 50 cents for the period. Prices at many of the other markets for steers looked chiefly 25 to 50 cents lower.

Until recently it was common on a Monday for Kansas City to report 75 per cent of the salable supply as stockers and feeders, but of late cattle suitable for country needs made up only about 50 per cent of the arrivals. Many deals have been made direct in Texas, with Corn Belt buying predominating, although several big strings came to Colorado. Prevailing prices still looked high under ordinary circumstances, but perhaps present conditions are not ordinary. The general opinion in the trade is that the fat-cattle market will assume a much healthier tone in the near future, especially on the handy cattle.

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January to April, inclusive, totaled 367,995 against 278,572 a year earlier, and this increase did not all come in the early months, as the April movement alone was over 20,000 larger than a year ago. Of the above states only Ohio and Wisconsin showed a decrease this year for the four months, while the most pronounced increase was attributed to Iowa, followed by a substantial gain for Nebraska.

Heavy replacement steers at Chicago were taken largely at \$9.50 to \$10.50, but some scored \$10.75 to \$11, with common and medium 600- to 900-pound kinds in the main at \$8 to \$9. There were some calf-weight southwestern yearlings as high as \$12.75, but other little steers usually made \$11 to \$12.50. Cows and heifers taken by country buyers were limited to odd lots except at other markets, from which there was a fair movement of she-stock.

Many good-to-choice 550- to 800-pound stocker and feeder steers at Kansas City which have been on wheat pastures through the winter sold freely, but bigger weight steers late in the month were especially dull at times. Most of the good-to-choice light yearling steers sold at \$10 to \$12, although best reached \$12.50. Some 725- to 800-pound feeders made \$11 to \$11.25, while fleshier and heavier steers sold at \$10.75 to \$11, with most of the medium-to-choice kinds at \$9 to \$10.50. Medium-to-good native steers sold at \$8.50 to \$9.50 and common to medium at \$7 to \$8.25.

Good-to-choice yearling and lightweight steers at Omaha made \$10.50 to \$11.75, while some yearlings under 600 pounds scored \$11.80 to \$12.50. Good-to-low-choice 750- to 850-pound western feeders landed at \$10 to \$10.75. Sioux City reported some 600- to 675-pound yearling stockers at \$12 to \$12.25, but other stocker and feeder steers of medium-to-choice grades were noted at \$8.50 to \$11.50. Sales of steers to country buyers at Denver were largely from \$8.50 to \$10.50, but some light yearlings scored \$11.25 to \$11.40.

Some 600-pound feeding heifers reached \$10.75 at Omaha, where other common-to-choice lots went out at \$7.50 to \$10. Kansas City reported short yearling heifers up to \$10.40, but older kinds usually sold at \$9 down. Some heifers reached \$10.25 at Denver and Sioux City. Cows at most markets were taken generally at \$6 to \$7.25 but best were quoted higher at Chicago, while some cows with calves at sides made \$8.75 to \$8.90 at Kansas City. Steer calves around the circuit were quoted generally at \$10.50 to \$13, but some of vealer weight landed at \$13.50 to \$14. Heifer calves were most numerous at \$9 to \$10.50 but best landed at \$10.75 to \$11.75.

Recent declines did not put stocker and feeder steer prices back to a year ago when they were remarkably high. At the end of April the average price at Chicago was \$10.15 against \$9.22 a year ago; at Kansas City, \$10.17 and \$9.68,

respectively, and at St. Paul, where quality was much lower, \$8.69 and \$7.85, respectively.

**S**LAUGHTER hog prices did not maintain a \$9 level for the month, although tops usually hovered around that basis and after dipping considerably below this figure reacted and by the middle of May went slightly above it. The Department of Agriculture continued its recently announced buying policy and from April 1 to May 4, inclusive, reported purchases of 103,339,735 pounds of pork and 4,258,400 pounds of lard. The amount of lard in cold storage on May 1 was much above a month earlier and a year ago and stood a few million pounds above two months ago, which was a record up to that time.

Hogs at Chicago at the middle of May were unevenly higher than a month earlier. Butchers below 240 pounds showed mostly 25 to 50 cents rise, while those over 240 pounds displayed a rise of 50 to 75 cents. With the greater advance on the heavyweights the price spread, grade for grade, narrowed sharply. The support of the bigger hogs was probably because such animals carried more finish than lightweights and buyers especially complained about the condition of those below 180 pounds. Packing sows found a broad outlet and for the period were largely 75 cents up.

Best butcher hogs at Chicago about the middle of April rested at \$8.90 to \$9 and then there was a steady decline until the top was pushed down to \$8.55 near the end of that month, and not until May 13 was the \$9 animal restored. The next session best reached \$9.10 and at mid-May a top of \$9.20 was registered, standing the highest since 1939 and 10 cents above the bulge in early April of this year. Top at some of the Missouri River markets and also at Denver frequently passed these best Chicago figures. Current prices stood around \$3 higher than a year ago.

Good-to-choice light lights at Chicago on May 15 sold at \$8 to \$8.75, while most of the 180- to 240-pound butchers scored \$9 to \$9.15—a range which also took the bulk of the heavier offerings. Good-to-choice sows from 270 to 360 pounds landed at \$8.70 to \$8.90 and the heavier weights made \$8.35 to \$8.75. Slaughter pigs cleared at \$7.50 to \$8 when grading medium to good. Feeders at Missouri River markets were quoted usually at \$8.25 to \$9, and country deals in many sections on a per head basis figured much higher where the weight was below sixty pounds.

**T**HE end of the fed woolled lamb season has been reached, and, taken as a whole, the lambs from most feeding areas have made slight profits but the lambs which came from the wheat pastures gave an unusually good account of themselves because gains were to be had more cheaply than from those fed in dry-lots. Spring lambs have taken charge of the market picture, although shorn lambs

have made up a greater part of the total supply than a month or more ago. The movement of California spring lambs through Ogden and Salt Lake up to the middle of May totaled 200,000 and only a small part of this total moved during April.

Generally favorable feed and weather conditions in all early lambing areas continued through April, according to the Department of Agriculture. The season to date has been one of the best ever experienced and the situation looks favorable for the next two months. The early lamb marketings in April were quite small because heavy rains and cloudy weather kept the green feed soft and it was impossible to put a hard finish on the lambs until May and later. Grass-fat yearlings in Texas did not move as freely early as is usually the custom, but the May and June movement not only of such offerings but of many lambs is certain to be liberal.

Range and sheep conditions are good over the intermountain area. Growers have been busy with lambing and shearing, and for that reason contracting of sheep and lambs for fall delivery to date has been limited. Most sections have reported scattered transactions for straight feeder lambs at \$8.50, and some cross-bred ewe lambs in eastern Oregon were to be delivered later as high as \$10.50.

Mid-May prices for spring lambs at Chicago were little different from a month earlier, as an uneven decline eliminated the improvement noted on earlier sessions. Old-crop lambs showed some gain near the wind-up of the season and for the month looked around 25 to 50 cents higher. Slaughter ewes, on the other hand, showed mostly 50 cents loss. The market was more irregular than during the previous month.

Choice fed woolled lambs sold as high as \$11.75 to shippers, and packers paid as high as \$11.65, while many good-to-choice lots landed at \$11 to \$11.50 and some with excessive weight were to be had at \$10.75 downward. California spring lambs topped at \$12.50 and many others cleared at \$11.85 to \$12.15, while some good Arizonas made \$11.25. Good-to-choice native springs sold usually at \$11 to \$12.35. Old-crop shorn lambs topped at \$10 and most of them went at \$8.50 to \$9.50 while some sold as low as \$8.

Woolled slaughter ewes reached \$7.25, but the bulk of medium-to-good offerings landed at \$5.25 to \$7. Shorn ewes occasionally scored \$5.25 and many sold at \$4 to \$5. Good-to-choice shearing lambs at Omaha and Chicago were noted at \$10 to \$10.85, but hardly any old-crop feeding lambs were purchased, although scattered lots of new crop feeding lambs have been going countryward. The movement of feeding sheep and lambs into seven of the Corn Belt states during April was much smaller than a year ago but the total for the period January through April at 418,000 was about 58,000 larger than for a like time in 1940.

## LIVESTOCK AT STOCK YARDS

RECEIPTS—	1941	April	1940	First Four Months 1941	Months 1940
Cattle*	1,113,928	1,057,267	4,243,993	3,950,350	
Calves	479,357	496,680	1,765,607	1,774,818	
Hogs	2,610,082	2,595,156	10,811,728	11,999,580	
Sheep	1,618,194	1,876,231	6,275,388	6,469,273	
<b>TOTAL SHIPMENTS†—</b>					
Cattle*	461,332	385,856	1,652,310	1,410,810	
Calves	175,429	183,773	664,386	655,535	
Hogs	623,425	713,291	2,902,933	3,311,356	
Sheep	647,547	828,481	2,568,667	2,661,091	
<b>STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—</b>					
Cattle	242,635	185,760	805,942	631,027	
Calves	59,617	58,172	233,650	190,696	
Hogs	53,902	43,455	207,209	182,986	
Sheep	113,193	156,079	520,474	447,925	
<b>SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION—</b>					
Cattle*	792,000	774,000	3,166,000	3,037,000	
Calves	507,000	480,000	1,746,000	1,714,000	
Hogs	3,807,000	3,610,000	15,953,000	17,224,000	
Sheep	1,436,000	1,355,000	5,859,000	5,532,000	

\* Exclusive of calves. † Includes stockers and feeders.

## HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

	May 1, 1941†	Apr. 1, 1941	May 1, 1940	Five-Yr. Av.
Frozen Beef	67,643,000	73,329,000	49,482,000	47,237,000
Cured Beef*	17,433,000	17,044,000	12,538,000	15,901,000
Lamb and Mutton	5,036,000	4,378,000	3,580,000	2,803,000
Frozen Pork	401,837,000	393,421,000	300,803,000	219,362,000
Dry Salt Pork*	115,472,000	107,252,000	80,065,000	84,761,000
Pickled Pork*	278,408,000	284,714,000	231,088,000	266,574,000
Miscellaneous	79,552,000	82,955,000	87,213,000	74,789,000
<b>Total Meats</b>	<b>965,381,000</b>	<b>963,093,000</b>	<b>764,769,000</b>	<b>711,427,000</b>
Lard	320,191,000	310,406,000	266,052,000	162,107,000
Frozen Poultry	101,000,000	126,904,000	86,226,000	72,212,000
Creamery Butter	17,727,000	8,983,000	9,504,000	22,392,000

\* Cured or in process of cure. † Subject to revision.

## CHICAGO WHOLESALE DRESSED MEATS

FRESH BEEF AND VEAL—	May 15, 1941	Apr. 15, 1941	May 15, 1940
Steer—Choice (700 lbs. up)	\$17.00-19.00	\$17.50-19.50	\$16.00-17.00
Steer—Good	16.00-17.00	16.00-17.50	14.50-16.00
Steer—Choice (500-700 lbs.)	17.00-19.00	17.00-19.50	16.00-17.00
Steer—Good	16.00-17.00	15.50-17.50	14.50-16.00
Yearling Steer—Choice	17.00-19.00	17.00-19.00	16.00-17.00
Yearling Steer—Good	16.00-17.00	15.50-17.00	14.50-16.00
Cow—Commercial	14.00-14.50	13.50-14.50	12.50-13.50
Veal and Calf—Choice	18.00-19.00	16.50-18.00	16.00-17.00*
Veal and Calf—Good	15.00-18.00	14.00-16.50	14.50-16.00*

FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON—	May 15, 1941	Apr. 15, 1941	May 15, 1940
Lamb—Choice (all weights)	18.00-20.00	15.00-18.00	18.00-20.00†
Lamb—Good	17.00-19.00	14.00-17.00	16.00-19.00†
Spring Lamb—Choice (all weights)	18.00-22.00		20.00-22.00
Spring Lamb—Good	19.00-21.00		19.00-21.00
Ewe—Good	10.50-11.50	10.00-11.00	10.00-11.00
Ewe—Commercial	9.50-10.50	9.00-10.00	

FRESH PORK CUTS—	May 15, 1941	Apr. 15, 1941	May 15, 1940
Loin—8-12 lb. average	18.50-20.00	17.00-18.00	13.00-14.50

\* Veal. † 55 pounds down.

## CHICAGO LIVESTOCK PRICES

	May 15, 1941	Apr. 15, 1941	May 15, 1940
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (1,100-1,500 lbs.)	\$11.25-13.25	\$12.50-14.50	\$10.25-11.75
Slaughter Steers—Good	10.00-11.50	10.50-12.50	9.50-10.25
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (900-1,100 lbs.)	11.50-13.25	12.50-14.50	10.25-11.75
Slaughter Steers—Good	10.50-11.50	10.50-12.50	9.50-10.25
Slaughter Steers—Med. (750-1,300 lbs.)	8.75-10.50	8.75-10.75	8.50-9.50
Fed Young Steers—Gd.-Ch. (750-900 lbs.)	11.50-13.25	10.75-14.50	10.25-11.50
Heifers—Good-Choice	10.25-12.00	10.50-13.25	9.25-10.75
Cows—Good	8.50-9.25	8.00-9.00	7.00-7.75
Vealers—Good-Choice	11.25-12.50	10.50-12.50	10.50-12.00
Calves—Good-Choice	8.00-10.00	8.00-10.00	8.00-9.00
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Gd. Ch.	9.50-12.00	9.75-12.00	8.75-10.75
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com.-Med.	7.50-10.00	7.75-10.00	7.00-8.75
Hogs—Medium Weights (200-240 lbs.)	9.00-9.20	8.60-8.90	5.60-5.80
Spring Lambs—Good-Choice	11.25-12.00		
Lambs—Good-Choice	10.75-11.20	10.50-11.00	10.40-10.60
Lambs (Shorn)—Good-Choice	9.25-9.90		9.60-9.75
Ewes—Good-Choice	5.75-7.00	6.50-7.50	3.50-4.25*

\* Shorn.

## NEW CLIP PRICES UP; HIDES HOLD STRENGTH

By H. W. FRENCH

CONTRACTING OF THE NEW WOOL clip continued at a good pace and prices were well above those of a year ago and held firm with early levels of the new season. Shearing still is in progress in some of the producing areas and clip owners are well satisfied with the situation, knowing that under present conditions and because of the world outlook there is certain to be a broad outlet for some time ahead.

Consumption of apparel wool for the year is expected to be larger than in any previous year. Unfilled Army orders now held by mills call for delivery of large quantities of wool cloth during the next eight months. Increased consumer incomes and prospects of larger retail sales point to a high rate of consumption. During February the rate of consumption was the highest on record.

Domestic wool prices are certain of strong support. Quotations on new clip domestic wools for near future delivery at Boston appeared to be about equal to spot prices of old clip wools as the new season got under way about April 1. Early shearing states reported mid-March prices 5 to 7 cents higher than a year ago. The spread between prices for domestic and foreign wool has been reduced in recent months.

Imports of apparel wool for consumption totaled 106,500,000 pounds the first two months of this year, compared with 45,100,000 pounds for the same period last year. With the new domestic clip now available, imports are likely to decline in the late spring and summer. Supplies of wool in South Africa and Australia are relatively large, but freight rates and shipping facilities are such as to indicate restricted exports from these countries. United States imports of Australian wool on British government account for April totaled 4,429,679 pounds net and for the first four months, 49,376,303 pounds.

Exports of wool from Argentina and Uruguay in the first five months (October-February) of the current season were larger than any recent year at 272,700,000 pounds against 197,100,000 pounds for a like period last season. Supplies available for export or carry-over on March 1 totaled around 268,000,000 pounds against 316,000,000 pounds a year earlier.

Around the middle of April the wool market at Boston was well supported on both foreign and domestic offerings. A broadening interest was shown in domestic wools, although the volume of business was rather moderate and there was no haste on the part of users in making purchases. Call for small to sizable quantities of a few kinds of wool was inclined to increase. Demand was still spotty but prices tended firm to slightly higher. The market for domestic wool

appeared to reflect the strengthening quantities in South America and resulting increase in demand in this market for various grades of South American wools.

The three-eighths and quarter blood grades comprised the bulk of the trading in fleece wools. Bright wools of these grades brought mostly 45 to 46 cents, in the grease, a few lots going at 44 to 45 cents, delivered, to users on shipment direct from the country. A few lots of semibright fleeces were sold at around 40 to 42 cents, delivered, for comparatively light shrinking kinds. New fine delaine offerings have not appeared in any volume.

Scattered sales of moderate volume were closed on fine territory wools in original bags, and, while the demand was restricted, prices were inclined to stiffen. Average-to-good French combing length fine original territory wools brought \$1 to \$1.05, scoured basis. It is becoming increasingly difficult for buyers to find offerings of fine territory wools at \$1, except lots running mostly short French combing in length of staple. Little interest was shown in graded territory wools. Combing three-eighths blood received some notice but not many sales resulted. Combing quarter blood had a slight demand at 82 to 85 cents.

A few lots, some of sizable volume, of twelve months Texas wool were moved at \$1.05 to \$1.10, scoured basis. Eight months Texas wool had a fairly steady demand for scoured lots around \$1.07 to \$1.08. Greasy lines were firmly quoted at \$1 to \$1.03, scoured basis.

The carryover of domestic wool in the United States on April 1 was the smallest in seven years. Stocks of foreign wool reported in or afloat to the United States on April 1 were large, and total April stocks were much larger than in most recent years. These stocks, however, were not considered large in relation to the current rate of mill consumption of apparel wool in this country.

An estimated 259,000,000 pounds of wool will be required by the government during the year beginning July 1, according to late press reports. This includes probable requirements of the Army and Navy, the WPA and all other government departments, and the Red Cross. The estimate was released by the director of defense purchases, as wool growers desired such information before they marketed their new clips, in the belief that any price rise would benefit the producers instead of the dealers.

**T**HE demand for hides continued good and the price movement was upward. Activity featured the market and new high levels for the season were reported on spot and futures. Packer sales were liberal and many concerns are willing to unload their take-offs currently, despite the strong undertone at the moment. Mid-May prices were generally ½ cent higher than a month earlier and in recent months the upturn has amounted to from 2 to 3 cents.

Outlet on the Pacific coast and in the Middle West was broad, with eastern buyers showing a disposition to support the market at prevailing levels. The South American trade on hides also is healthy at this time. There is nothing in the situation at present that indicates any bearishness on hides and pelts, although prospective supplies may be fully up to normal.

The spring letdown in shoe production may be below that of other years because of the active operations on civilian and government orders. Production the first two months was up 5.5 per cent from a year ago and the increase in March was around 14 per cent, so that for the first quarter in 1941 a gain of 9 per cent was reported as compared with a year earlier. Based on the output up to date and estimating the remainder of the year, the 1941 production may reach 430,000,000 or more pairs for a new record as compared with 424,136,000 pairs in 1939, which was the record previously.

Mid-month prices in the East were as follows: heavy native steer, 13¾; heavy Texas steer, 12½; butt brand, 13; heavy native cows, 13¾; light native cow, 14½; branded cow, 14; Colorado steer, 12½; native bulls, 10½. Occasional sales and some future deals were reported above these quotations.

## FROM FOREIGN FIELDS

**M**EATLESS DAYS CONTINUE TO multiply. Japan, because of shortage, began one meatless day a week in April. . . . In Sweden, nearly all kinds of meat are rationed—just over 1 pound per head per week. . . . Italians may have meat only two days per week, instead of three as hitherto. . . . A decree including donkey flesh and mule flesh in the meat ration has been published in France. . . . Horse meat is being combined with beef in various "articles of popular consumption" in England.

## FEED FROM WOOD

Wood as a source of livestock feed is gradually passing from an experimental stage into that of practical utilization in some European countries, says "Foreign Crops and Markets." The substitute is being produced on a fairly extensive scale in Sweden, Norway, and Finland. Germany also has given increased attention to the new feed.

## FOOD IN DENMARK

In Denmark, of the staple foods, bread, flour, and cereals; sugar; and fats (butter and margarine) are rationed on a fairly liberal basis, while potatoes, meat, fish, milk, ordinary cheese, and eggs are not, according to "Foreign Crops and Markets." Against this apparently favorable picture is set

a strong presumption that, because of the increase in prices at a time of rising unemployment, the lower-income groups may not be in position to buy full ration allowances.

## MUST KILL CATTLE

A recent press item reported that, because of lack of 4,410,000 tons of feed due to last season's poor harvest, ravages of war, and blockade restrictions, France would have to slaughter 1,200,000 cattle prematurely.

## MEETING NOTES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

tional Livestock and Grain Show held on the campus of State College, Brookings, South Dakota, in March. Over 150 head of livestock were on exhibition. Poultry, agronomy exhibits, meat cutting, and identification contests, machinery displays and demonstrations, and evening shows engaged the showgoers' full time and interest. Awards amounted to \$350.

## ASKS BROADER LOAN BASIS

Members of the Ferry County Live Stock Association, meeting in Republic, Washington, on May 14, passed a resolution asking that the American National Live Stock Association reaffirm its position of a year ago in opposition to consolidation of the Forest Service and the Division of Grazing at the present time. Another resolution asked that the legislative committee of the American National Live Stock Association try to get from the FCA a "broader basis for production credit to ranchers by using both livestock and ranch values as collateral for loans" in cases where needed.

## SAN-PIMA STOCKMEN MEET

Members of the San-Pima Cattle Growers' Association, meeting in Nogales, Arizona, on April 26 re-elected Joe King, Tucson, president; David Jeffcott, Patagonia, vice-president; and Jack Weadock, secretary. Directors are: Thomas Griffin, Nogales; Henry Boice, Tucson; Hubert d'Autremont, Tucson; Gene Burns; Tom Heady, Patagonia; H. B. Thurber, Sonoita; and W. H. Hathaway, Nogales.

## NEW OKLAHOMA SECRETARY

A. G. (Lon) Williams, veteran rancher of Pawhuska, Oklahoma, was selected by the board of directors of the Oklahoma Live Stock Growers' Association as its new secretary during the annual meeting of the board May 22. Williams replaces Bobby Vincent, who was selected earlier in the year as acting secretary.

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# ROUND THE RANGE

## WESTERN RANGE CONDITION HIGHEST IN TEN YEARS

**WESTERN RANGE CONDITIONS,** reported as good to very good on May 10, were the highest for the date since 1930, according to the Denver regional livestock office of the Agricultural Marketing Service. Prospects for spring feed were reported as favorable. Range conditions east of the main range and in Arizona and California were the best in several years.

Ranges showed seasonal improvement, but cool weather had delayed growth of new feed in northern areas. Moisture had improved in areas east of the Rockies; some deficiency was reported from the Northwest. Range feed in the Dakotas was better than in several years. Montana ranges were late but had improved, although subsoil was short and dry spots were reported from the west. Wyoming ranges, although starting late, had ample moisture. Nebraska ranges were improved but feed was late. Kansas and Oklahoma had the best feed prospects in many years, but new grass was late. Texas had excellent moisture conditions and the best outlook for feed in many years. Good soil moisture and best range prospects in years were reported from New Mexico. Arizona lower ranges were very good and moisture over the entire state favorable. Excellent feed was being munched on California ranges; summer feed will be good. Cool weather had held back Utah and Nevada ranges; moisture supplies were ample. Idaho ranges had similarly been slowed up, but good range was in prospect. Oregon range conditions were reported as improved. Washington ranges were good. Snow in April was considerable in the high ranges in the main range of the Rockies but light in the Northwest. Some parts of the northern Great Plains will need more moisture. Condition of ranges on May 1 was 89 per cent of normal, compared with 85 per cent on April 1, 84 per cent a year ago, and 79 per cent for the 1931-40 average.

Cattle continued in good condition and were in improved condition in early feed areas. In some northern areas April storms prevented any gain. Losses were reported as light. Slow growth of new feed in northern areas had necessitated rather late feeding. Calf crop prospects were reported generally good; calf losses, light. Demand was generally strong, with some effort toward rebuilding herds in sections not fully stocked. Soft feed had delayed finishing of California grass cattle. Arizona cattle made excellent gains. Texas cattle had gained well, but spring movement to northern pastures and feed-lots was reported lighter than last year. The Southwest had enjoyed fairly active demand for cattle; some calves had been contracted for fall delivery.

Sheep continued in good to very good condition. Northern areas reported slight gain in condition but sheep had generally held their own. Good gains were reported from Texas and other southern areas. Late lamb prospects were reported generally good. Ewe bands in northern areas were in good flesh. Stormy weather in April did not result in unusual losses of sheep or lambs. Texas conditions were reported as very good, with a good lamb crop. Shearing and movement of early lambs from there had been delayed by rain. Shearing in northern sections was reported delayed. Clean and light was the report on the 1941 wool clip. Wool contracting continued on a fairly active basis in April.

## BULLETINS IN BRIEF

**WAGE INCREASES OF 8 PER CENT** were announced by twelve Chicago and midwestern meat packing companies, effective as of April 21, we read in *National Provisioner*. The action, first announced by Swift and Company, "is in keeping with the continued rise in manufacturing industries throughout the country." On the basis of the average weekly wage for last February for meat packing plant employees throughout the country, the advance increased their average wage approximately \$2.13 per week, or 5.48 cents per hour.

## FARM FORECLOSURES DECLINE

Farm foreclosures in 1940 showed a decline of 41 per cent from the previous year, according to the Department of Agriculture. The total of 20,950, estimated by the Farm Credit Administration, is the smallest number of foreclosures in any year in the seven years for which it has records. Of this number, 7,836 were foreclosed by individual mortgage holders, 3,190 by the federal land bank, and 3,187 by commercial banks. Insurance company foreclosures were 2,576, and Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation foreclosures 2,211. Miscellaneous foreclosures numbered 1,950.

## PRIZES AT INTERNATIONAL

Prizes totaling approximately \$100,000 have been approved for the 1941 International Live Stock Exposition, to be held November 29 to December 6 at the Chicago Stock Yards. B. H. Heide, secretary-manager of the exposition, said that the Aberdeen-Angus and Shorthorn cattle associations have indicated that there may be some increases offered in connection with these classes at the 1941 show. Most important change to be made in the cattle department of the 1941 International was a recasting of the weight classes for steers. They will be as follows: A class for steers weighing

700 pounds and under 900 pounds, a second for steers weighing 900 pounds and under 1,050 pounds, a medium heavy class for steers weighing from 1,050 to 1,150 pounds, and the heavy class will remain the same as in past years—from 1,150 to 1,400 pounds. The 1940 International review and album, consisting of 360 pages, profusely illustrated with attractive photos of champion winners in a majority of the breed classes of last year's livestock show, as well as the horse show, crops show, and various judging contests, is now available from exposition headquarters for \$1.

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## HALF OF LIVESTOCK TRUCKED IN

Driven-in receipts of livestock during 1940 at seventeen yards were 66.65 per cent of total cattle received, 70.72 per cent of the calves, 74.91 per cent of the hogs, and 35.25 per cent of the sheep and lambs. These percentages compared with 62.34 per cent, 64.49 per cent, 75.34 per cent, and 32.33 per cent, respectively, for the year 1939. The Department of Agriculture has also estimated that 25 per cent of the butter, 39 per cent of the eggs, 65 per cent of the poultry, 40 per cent of fruits and vegetables, and 50 per cent of mules and horses are moved by truck from farms to markets. A total of 53 per cent of all livestock moves over the highways to market.

## BEEF PRICES

In a radio talk on May 2, sponsored by the Bureau of Consumers' Service of the New York City Bureau of Markets, Frances Foley Gannon made the following explanation of the beef price situation: "You might say, 'What about beef?' Well, yes, beef is rather high, although it has shown a lower trend since last September. In fact, beef as a whole is averaging about 3 cents per pound above what it sold for last May. Still I could not, by any stretch of the imagination, term beef inordinately expensive at the present time. Just consider for a moment that beef has often been much higher than it is right now. In fact, at one time during 1937 it was

selling at figures which were about 11 cents per pound above the present price levels."

## GRASS AS GOOD AS CORN

Beef from cattle fattened on grass "ripens" as well as beef from cattle on grain, and it is just as juicy and flavorful, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry. A three-year study by the bureau and the Virginia agricultural experiment station has proved that the deciding element is the fatness of the animals. If a grass-fed animal is as fat as a grain-fed animal, the beef is just as desirable, according to the results of this work.

## RESEEDING RANGE

A half million acres of public land in federal grazing districts of western United States will be reseeded this year as part of the conservation program of the Grazing Service, according to Director R. H. Rutledge. CCC enrollees in camps assigned to the Grazing Service have collected well over 100,000 pounds of native grass seed, including such species as filares, wheatgrass, saltbush, and ricegrass. Much of this seed has already been sown. The remainder, together with seed bought at commercial seed houses, will be used to try to reach the service's goal of reseeding 50,000 acres of range in each of the ten western states.

## LETTERS (CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

trampling. Areas deferred for early spring use should be systematically rotated so that the entire spring-fall range will be covered every few years.—TED HYDE, Idaho.

## BETTER CATTLE

Cattle came through the winter in good shape. The work of the cattle improvement program is having its effect. I have inspected many of the bulls which are going on the range, and find that the cattlemen are putting better bulls on the range than ever before. The rangemen are taking a great deal of interest in better cattle and are anxious to improve the quality of their range herds. The rangemen are also planning on doing considerable culling of their herds this fall, sending the poor animals to market while the price is good.—HARRY H. SMITH, Extension Animal Husbandman, Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah.

## DRY WINTER

This locality experienced a dry winter. However, when March swung into place, snow began to fall, and April gave us at least four feet of snow, also a lot of rain. Range is a little slow because of cool weather, but grass should be abundant if rain continues throughout the spring and summer.—ALEX CROSS, Converse County, Wyo.

## MOST FAVORABLE

Conditions in this part of Oregon for the cattle industry have not been more favorable in many years. Grass is up to normal; yes, I believe, above normal. Cattle are selling at a good price, and in general things are going pretty well.—OLIVER A. POER, secretary, West Malheur Cattle Association, Harney County, Ore.

## IDEAL SPRING

Spring has been ideal, with around five inches of rain in April. This is the first time in my memory that the rain didn't turn to snow so early in the spring. It has been ideal for young calves and lambs, with practically no loss and a bumper crop.—W. J. MONNETT, Campbell County, Wyo.

## WINTERED WELL

Please find \$1 check to renew my subscription to AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER. I find it a dollar well invested. Conditions here are better this spring than they have been in the last ten years. Cattle and sheep came through the winter in good condition.—EARL CAVIN, Dallam County, Tex.

I like the PRODUCER fine.—LEWIS MILLER, Albany County, Wyo.

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